

Florida

FLORIDA'S SHOOTING PRESERVES
HIGH ON THE HOG

Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •

WILDLIFE

JANUARY, 1961

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS



REGULATIONS FOR 1960-61 HUNTING SEASON

ALL DATES SHOWN ARE INCLUSIVE

OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING FLORIDA RESIDENT GAME BIRDS AND GAME ANIMALS						OPEN SEASON FOR TAKING MIGRATORY BIRDS FLORIDA*				
	DEER BUCK ONLY	TURKEY EITHER SEX	QUAIL	SQUIRREL	RAIL AND GALLINULE (Marsh Hen)	DOVE	SNIFE	WOODCOCK	WATERFOWL Ducks Coot	Geese
Day's Bag	1	2	10	10 Gray 2 Fox	15 25 (sora)	12	8	4	4 ¹	2
Season's Bag	2	3								
1st District	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. EXCEPT Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto and Hillsborough south of U. S. 92 closed.	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. EXCEPT DeSoto, and Hardee open Nov. 19 to 27 and Dec. 24 to Jan. 2 only. Pinellas County Closed.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30.	Oct. 15 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 24 to January 9. No early season in Glades, Charlotte, DeSoto and Hardee.	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15.	12 Noon Dec. 2 to Jan. 8	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8
2nd District	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during the first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2. SPECIAL SEASON Gilchrist County Nov. 19 to Dec. 11 with Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed during the entire season. That portion of Columbia south of St. Rd. 18 and east of U. S. 441 CLOSED.	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2. That portion of Columbia south of St. Rd. 18 and east of U. S. 441 CLOSED.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30.	October 15 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 24 to Jan. 9.	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15.	12 Noon Dec. 2 to Jan. 8	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8
3rd District	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. Okaloosa and Walton open Nov. 19 to Dec. 4 and Dec. 17 to Jan. 1. Washington, Holmes, Jackson Counties CLOSED. Escambia and Santa Rosa CLOSED except within Eglin and Blackwater Management Areas.	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL GOBBLER season April 1 to April 9—1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon, except no gobbler season in Franklin, Gulf, Calhoun and Liberty outside of Gaskin Wildlife Management Area.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30.	October 15 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 24 to Jan. 9. Alligator Point closed in early season. No early season in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and that portion of Holmes west of Choctawhatchee River.	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15.	12 Noon Dec. 2 to Jan. 8	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8
4th District	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. Monroe County closed to Key Deer.	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Hunting permitted every day. Collier County CLOSED.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Hunting permitted every day.	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30.	October 15 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 24 to Jan. 9. No early season in Collier and Okeechobee Counties.	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15.	12 Noon Dec. 2 to Jan. 8	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8
5th District	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Nov. 19 to Feb. 12. Monday, Tuesday and Friday closed except during first 9 days and between Dec. 25 and Jan. 2.	Sept. 23 to Nov. 30.	October 15 to Nov. 6 and Nov. 24 to Jan. 9.	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15	Dec. 17 to Jan. 15.	12 Noon Dec. 2 to Jan. 8	Nov. 19 to Jan. 8

*Hunting for Migratory Birds permitted every day of applicable open season.

(1) Days bag and possession of duck may include only two wood ducks and one hooded merganser. No open season on canvasback and redhead. Days bag of red breasted or American merganser is 5 in aggregate in addition to other ducks.

Complete summary of Hunting and Trapping Rules and Regulations, applying to Game, Fur Bearing Animals, and Reptiles 1960-61 can be obtained at the office of the County Judge, or from any of the regional offices, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, listed on Page 3.

★
Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★
**Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of Our Game and Fish**
★

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

In This Issue

Turkey Trophy Deluxe	Maurice Naggiar	11
What About Shooting Preserves?	Charles Dickey	12
Old Faithful	Russell Tinsley	16
Choctawhatchee Watershed	Keith Byrd	18
Winged Symphony	Jim Floyd	22
High On The Hog	Edmund McLaurin	24
Drake or Hen?	James Evans	28
Fish Pond Management	Wayne Hook	31
Whose "WHOOO" In Miami	John Fix	35

Departments

Game Management Notes	4	Florida Club News	10
Muzzle Flashes	6	Camping & Cooking	36
Wildlife Balance Wheel	8	Dog Chatter	38
Test and Tells	41		

Florida Wildlife is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy 25¢; subscription rate, \$2.00 per year. Changes of address should be reported promptly. Unsolicited pictures and editorial material will be handled with care, but Florida Wildlife cannot assume any responsibility for loss or damage of same. Permission to reprint any material in this publication will be granted to responsible parties upon application to the editor. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1912.

Copyright 1961, by

Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

ROSE  TALLAHASSEE

COMMISSIONERS

JULIAN ALFORD, Chairman
Tallahassee

T. PAINE KELLY, JR.
Tampa

GORDON GRANGER
Lake City

DR. J. W. COSPER
Homestead

DON SOUTHWELL
Ormond Beach

★

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A. D. ALDRICH, Director

O. EARLE FRYE, Assistant Director

JOEL McKINNON
Administrative Assistant

E. T. HEINEN
Chief Fish Management Division

E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, JR.
Chief, Game Management Division

ROBERT A. DAHNE
Chief, Information-Education

★

WILLIAM DURKEE
Chief, Aviation Division
2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida

RHETT McMILLIAN
Chief, Communications Division
Federal Communications Bldg.
New Smyrna Beach

★

Northwest Region
JAMES BICKERSTAFF, Regional Manager
226 Airport Drive
Box 576—Phone SU 5-5352
Panama City, Florida

Northeast Region
CHARLES CLYMORE, Regional Manager
Box 908, Phone 1725
Lake City, Florida

Central Region
D. C. LAND, Regional Manager
2520 E. Silver Springs Blvd., MARion 9-2802
Ocala, Florida

Southern Region
D. E. TIMMONS, JR., Regional Manager
Lodwick Airport, MUtual 6-8157
P. O. Box 1392
Lakeland, Florida

Everglades Region
LOUIS F. GAINEY, Regional Manager
551 No. Military Trail
Phone OVerland 3-0748
West Palm Beach, Florida

GAME MANAGEMENT NOTES

BY
E. B.
CHAMBERLAIN
JR.

FLORIDA GAME MANAGEMENT Division personnel were again honored by the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society at its recent meeting in Biloxi. The Commission's Technical Bulletin Number 6 entitled "The Everglades Deer Herd—Life History and Management" by Charles M. Loveless won the award for the best game publication in the southeast during the past year. At the same time, Richard Harlow and Edwin L. Tyson jointly received the award for the best paper presented at the preceding annual

meeting. Their paper dealt with relationships between deer weights and mast abundance.

Unfortunately neither Mr. Loveless nor Mr. Tyson is still with the Commission. Mr. Loveless resigned to work on his doctoral degree at Colorado A and M, while Mr. Tyson left to teach and work on his doctoral degree at Florida State University. Both are sorely missed. It is most regrettable that Commission pay scales are not sufficient to hold such good men.

The first of the periodic aerial in-

ventories of waterfowl on selected sample areas was carried out in mid-November. This indicated good populations of scaup, pintail, baldpate, and ring-necks on Merritts Island, Indian River, south sections of Lake Okeechobee, and Tampa Bay. Many coots were found on the St. Johns River, and good numbers of redhead in Apalachee Bay. Approximately 4,000 Canada geese were counted in Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson and Leon Counties. This is slightly more than were present at the same time last year, but not nearly what the peak population should be.

These periodic aerial inventories by qualified wildlife biologists are made to provide up-to-date information on the size of waterfowl populations, and to permit evaluation and analysis of habitat conditions and reproductive success.

If you hunt on one of the wildlife management areas you may find a great deal of attention being paid to the game you check out. Wildlife biologists need turkey wing and breast feathers, deer jaws, deer livers, deer blood, and ticks from most game species. All of this material plays a definite and important part in the management of Florida's wildlife resources.

The turkey feathers permit accurate determination of the age and sex of the birds that are harvested. This sample gives an understanding of the status of the entire turkey population, which is necessary to all management and regulation. In similar fashion, deer jaws permit accurate aging of the animals that are killed and enables the biologist to determine the condition and status of the herd. On these factors depend the management and regulatory measures that are undertaken.

Deer livers, deer blood and ticks are all to be analyzed by the Southeastern Wildlife Disease Project, a cooperative study supported by

(Continued on Page 40)

HUNTERS ASKED TO SPARE EAGLES

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY has issued an appeal to all outdoorsmen to help prevent the shooting of any Bald Eagles, which may face extinction if they continue to decrease.

The Society said that every year some eagles are shot by mistake because a few hunters fail to identify their targets before shooting.

"Young eagles are the most frequent victims," said C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Florida Audubon Society, "since they lack the distinctive white heads and tails that characterize mature Bald Eagles. The young are largely dark-colored, sometimes mottled with white."

To safeguard the eagles, Audubon officials recommended that hunters make it a practice to avoid shooting at any large soaring, or hawk-like, birds. They added that all eagles, hawks and owls are now protected by Florida law, and that Bald Eagles are also protected by federal law.

Anyone who shoots an eagle, even accidentally, may be fined \$500 or imprisoned for six months. This maximum penalty is said to reflect the determination of the federal government to prevent the extinction of our national emblem.

Mason said that only Florida and Alaska are fortunate enough to have appreciable numbers of resident Bald Eagles, and that they are making their "last stand" in these states.

"The Florida Audubon Society wishes to challenge every conservation-minded Floridian to help save the eagles," Mason stated. "We must eliminate illegal shooting of these majestic birds and prevent the cutting of their nest trees. If the owners of land on which eagles are nesting will give their consent, Audubon will post the properties as wildlife sanctuaries."

"It would be ironic indeed," commented Mason, "if the living symbol of our country's freedom is itself denied freedom by our indifference."

The Florida Audubon Society is financing its eagle conservation program by selling memberships in the American Bald Eagle Club for one dollar or more. Further information about the campaign to save Florida's eagles may be obtained from the Florida Audubon Society, P. O. Box 825, Maitland, Florida. ●

THE COVER

Pheasant hunting in Florida? There is now since shooting preserves have gained in popularity throughout the state. See page 12.

Cover Photo by Charles Dickey

**THERE IS
STILL TIME**

**FOR THAT
EXTRA SPECIAL
GIFT TO YOUR
SPORTSMAN FRIENDS!**



Give a Christmas present that extends your
GOOD WISHES through the entire year, a gift subscription to . . .

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

The Florida Magazine For ALL Sportsmen

Here is a 12-in-1 gift that is perfect for
your relatives, friends and business asso-
ciates who like to hunt and fish in
FLORIDA.

A hand-signed gift card will tell each
friend that YOU have given them a whole
year of arm-chair hunting and fishing in
the Sunshine State.

You shop from home. Mail \$2.00 for
EACH ONE-YEAR subscription to:
FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida

Gift For _____

Address _____

☐ NEW

☐ RENEWAL

Gift For _____

Address _____

☐ NEW

☐ RENEWAL

Gift For _____

Address _____

☐ NEW

☐ RENEWAL

Gift Card From _____

Address _____

MUZZLE FLASHES



BY
EDMUND
MCLAURIN

IF YOU'RE A PERSON who likes a lot of shooting, or a newspaper Sunday supplement feature writer momentarily stymied for interesting local area material, the Florida chain of Winter Trapshoots, to be held in eight Florida cities between the dates of January 27 and March 26, should not be overlooked.

In all, more than a million shotgun shells will be fired at clay pigeon targets thrown from electrically operated traps, with at least 500 out-of-state shotgunners competing against Florida's resident best. Last year, visiting competitors came from 28 different states and from as far away as Canada and California. There usually is an especially heavy representation from Middle West states.

Many of the out-of-state shooters come to Florida as early as September, to get used to shooting conditions on Florida club ranges, prior to scheduled competitions.

This season marks the fourteenth year member clubs of the Florida State Trapshooters' Association have held round-robin invitational shoots. Each year has seen an obvious increase in interest and activity and acknowledged enjoyment.

Location and dates of this year's

chain of winter month trapshoots, statewide, are as follows:

Daytona	Jan. 27, 28, 29
W. Palm Beach ..	Feb. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Miami	Feb. 9, 10, 11, 12
Sarasota ..Feb.	14 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
St. Pete	Feb. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
Tampa Feb.	28-Mar. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Orlando	Mar. 9, 10, 11, 12
Orlando	Mar. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
	(State Shoot)
St. Pete	Mar. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
	(Farewell Shoot)

The competitive firing will be divided into three general classifications—the 16 Yard, the Handicap and Double-bird Events.

All scheduled competitions are registered shoots—which means that scores of individual contestants are reported to the American Trapshooting Association for record and for future use in determining fair handicap systems. ATA rules govern all the shoots in the Florida chain.

Uniform tournament opening and closing hours will be observed all over the state. Firing will start promptly at 10:00 A.M. and close by 5:30 P.M. Shooting will be continuous, as numbered relays succeed each other. Even during the lunch hour, firing will be continuous, as

some relays shoot while rival competitors are eating.

A printed program explaining all scheduled events, giving entry fee information and a list of the various awards, can be had on request to Luke Sadler, secretary-treasurer, 4928 Arapahoe Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.

For shooters flying to sites of activity, local clubs have made arrangements for fast transportation to and from nearest airports.

While advance expression of intention to participate will materially help tournament officials, still, entries will be accepted right up to the day of scheduled events. However, very few shooters are guilty of such procrastination. Most want to know in advance of their entry classification, and plan for successful participation.

As usual, many colorful personalities will be seen at this year's Florida chain of trapshoots. All of the big arms companies, like Winchester-Western and Remington-Peters, will have representatives in attendance. Paul Graf, nationally famous gunstock maker from Hamilton, Ohio, will be both a competitor and exhibitor. The editor of *Trap and Field*, the trapshooter's "bible," will be on hand to gather facts and make photos, and there will be an assemblage of nationally famous trapshooters and judges of other years to assist in judging and scoring of events. Bill Plessinger, of Orlando, who designs and manufactures colorful, tailored shooting jackets, will cover the circuit, too . . . Most assuredly, variety will not be lacking!

During the calendar period of operations, local clubs make it a point



First relays on the firing lines! There is always a feeling of excitement when first-called relays open a big trapshooting tournament.

to arrange for convenient and reasonable motel accommodations, parking of trailers and for entertainment by local groups, of the visiting wives and daughters. This assures more enjoyable attendance by everyone.

To provide adequate, convenient eating facilities close to scenes of activity, the Florida Trapshooting Association has a contract with a well known caterer, who comes in and sets up a large dining tent at each scheduled shoot, offering hot food—from coffee to complete meals—at pre-approved prices. Competing shooters and their families do not have to leave ranges at all at meal times.

Typical of participating clubs is the Lealman Rod and Gun Club, St. Petersburg, featuring a modern club house and range layout on 20 acres of developed property. The club maintains five electrically controlled traps and a separate Skeet shooting range. During the coming mid-winter chain of trapshoots, the club, like others, will use four of its traps for main events and make the fifth available for contemporary practice use by competitors desiring to “warm up” their guns or otherwise check on their gun handling techniques. For family use, there are also adjacent picnic areas, and idle hour entertainment inside the club’s spacious recreation building.

Whether competitor or spectator, most persons interested in shooting like to see targets break or otherwise register a hit. In essence, this is the primary reason why trapshooting and Skeet outrank formal rifle and pistol tournaments in maintained participant and spectator interest. One can see and feel growing excitement and results as they develop, something that subsequent study of posted scores simply cannot create. Therein lies the basic strength and appeal of trapshooting and of Skeet, and the weakness of rifle and pistol competitions utilizing distant, motionless paper targets.

Much of the growing popularity and success of the Florida chain of trapshoots can be traced to their



Paul Graf, right, noted gunstock maker from Hamilton, Ohio, is a regular competitor and exhibitor at Florida trapshoots.

detailed advance planning. Each March, usually at the state championship shoot, officers of the Florida association put their heads together to plan programs for the next year. Likewise, each club has a delegate present to make suggestions and give a resume of encountered problems, for group analysis. Then, in November, the Handicap Committee meets via an expensive four-way telephone circuit hook-up, to check all past participant classifications to decide what is to be his or her fair handicap throughout next scheduled competitions. Based on scores made at various registered shoots, as reported to and compiled by the American Trapshooting Association, a fair handicap rating, when called for, is given each probable competitor, to apply uniformly at any one or all of the scheduled Florida shoots. In short, an expert shooter competing under an imposed handicap at, say, Daytona can move on to the other shoots with full knowledge of what he will face in the way of listed handicap.

In the open competitions, any result can occur. Frequently, a “hot” shooter will break 75 or more straight targets, then without apparent cause start missing easier

shots. While former year champions are never taken lightly by rival shooters, still, the records show that many relative unknowns have entered the state competitions and taken home major awards.

A close observer of firing line activity will note that the majority of the shooters do not squeeze the trigger slowly and smoothly to fire shots, but slap or pull it sharply. The orthodox trigger squeeze used by expert rifle and pistol shooters is too slow for the shotgunner.

Another notable trapshooting characteristic is the seriousness with which individual shooters regard proper stock fit—as they rightly should. In no form of shotgun shooting is proper stock fit more important than in competitive trapshooting. Most shooters experiment until they obtain gunstock dimensions that fit their individual physiques perfectly, and that preferably puts their shooting eye in a sighting plane that enables them to “see daylight” under targets as they aim, and thereby more easily follow target flight course.

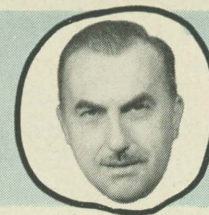
Any make of modern shotgun of 12 gauge, capable of firing two fast shots, makes a satisfactory trap gun. Preferably, it should have at least one full choke bored barrel—if a double—and possibly “improved modified” for the more open barrel. If the preferred model is a single barrel gun, then one of full choke boring should be your selection.

Consider that released targets fly approximately fifty yards from the trap, with the shooter standing 16 yards from point of release. This gives a total shot pattern flight range of 66 yards, which automatically explains the need for full choke boring in the barrel. Also, full choke boring for Handicap Classification is not only desirable but a “must” if you want to be rated among the top names.

Side by side double barrel guns, over-and-unders and pumps are favored types; in fact, autoloaders are not eligible for use in a registered trapshoot.

(Continued on Page 42)

WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL



BY
DENVER
STE. CLAIRE

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN to wish everyone a year filled with happiness. May all of your dreams have a chance to become realities. May all of you be inspired with new ideas. May your enthusiasm be so abundant some of it will spread to others. May this be your YEAR. May 1961 be the one for you. Happy New Year!!

Notes and Comments From My Desk

The Wilderness Society is endeavoring to enlist more people to meet critically important conservation issues:

To protect wilderness in our parks and forests and to save cherished natural areas from destruction. (Our agencies of Government and the Congress of the United States face growing pressures from interests that threaten to destroy many of our finest unspoiled outdoor places, even those within the dedicated wild areas of our parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.)

To clean up our streams and rid them of deadly pollution that turns them into open sewers.

To prevent the obstruction of programs for managing and protecting our wildlife, forests, and other natural resources.

The list is almost endless, but it adds up to a tremendous burden of responsibility for every person who is concerned about these conservation problems.

If you are interested, why not write to them and receive other pertinent information. The address is:

The Wilderness Society
2144 P Street, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

In a recent issue of Conservation News, a bulletin of the National Wildlife Federation, an announcement for the dates of Wildlife Week was made. Wildlife Week will be scheduled for March 19-25, 1961.

The theme and slogan this year is "Multiple Use—Balanced Conservation Planning for the Future."

National Wildlife Week is sponsored annually to highlight particular conservation goals through educational and informational means.

National Wildlife Week was first established in 1939 by presidential proclamation. Observances now are states and mayors of many cities as well as by the President of the United States.

Here in Florida Governor Farris Bryant will proclaim the Week and will also issue a proclamation for Youth Conservation Day, Saturday, March 25, 1961.

Tag Day will be observed by the Junior Conservation, Wildlife and Sportsmen's Clubs in Florida. This year will be the sixth annual Tag Day. Other interested groups are invited to join the Florida youth in raising money for their Camp in the Ocala National Forest and for other associated activities. Tags are distributed to the two dozen clubs in the State and monies raised are evenly divided between the league



Bob Dahne, Information-Education Division Chief, poses with recipients of Junior Wildlife Officer badges. From left, standing, Frank Worley, Earl DeBary, Dahne, and Raymond Price. Kneeling, David Laird and Frank Mustin.

and the local clubs. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs assisted in some areas last year for the first time.

Money received from citizens interested in conservation and our youth is wisely spent. Receipts from the last three or four years have aided the youth in purchasing four aluminum 17-foot Grummen canoes, a school bus for camp transportation, six .22 caliber rifles and two drinking fountains.

(The fountains were presented 1960 by the boys and girls Junior Conservation Clubs of Bartow. Between the two clubs approximately \$500 was raised.)

Don't forget these two dates, March 19-25, 1961, National Wildlife Week and March 25, Youth Conservation Day.

L. B. Sharp Joins Southern Illinois University

The friends of Dr. L. B. Sharp were happy to receive the announcement that he has been appointed Professor-Lecturer in Outdoor Education at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, beginning this fall. We congratulate both L. B. and Southern Illinois on this appointment, which should give great strength to teacher and leadership preparation in outdoor education. The pioneer efforts of Dr. Sharp, through Life Camps and National Camp, coupled with the fine leadership and facilities of Southern Illinois should speed the use of the outdoors in the enrichment of education. According to the announcement, Dr. Sharp will continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the Outdoor Education Association, Inc., which is a private organization for the advancement of outdoor education.

Scouting for Conservation

Inquiries have been coming into our office with greater frequency

these past three months. For any scoutmaster interested in this program sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, please write to us in Ocala at 2520 East Silver Springs Blvd.

At the present time, thirty-two scouts have participated in the program during the last three years. The program was inaugurated during May, 1957. The following scouts have received these honors and ranks:

Central Florida Council: Charles Acuff-Ranger, Randy Blumenberg-Ranger, David Ingram-Ranger, Chane Alyea-Ranger, David Walker-Ranger, Frank Asbeck-Ranger, Walter Osteen-Ranger, John McEachan-Ranger, Hal Crosby-Ranger, Jim Spencer-Ranger, Bill Bennett-Ranger, Tommy Barker-Ranger.

Gulf Stream Council: Hank Doten-Ranger, Joe Skinner-Ranger, Wayne L. Clark-Ranger, Ronnie O'Neil-Ranger.

North Florida Council: Johnny Cramer-Ranger, Walter Yongue-Ranger-Chief Ranger-Florida Wildlife Conservationist, Manuel L. Cepeda-Ranger, Frankie Yongue-Ranger, Jimmie Sims-Ranger.

Pinellas Area Council: Steven D.



Members of the Deane Mather Junior Wildlife Club, pose for picture during recent anniversary celebration at Ocala. Club advisor is Gene Gallant, kneeling at right.

McMahon-Ranger, Jeffrey Johnson-Ranger, Carroll L. Wright-Ranger, Andy Seawright-Ranger, Gary King-Ranger, Jim Wallace-Ranger, Foster Barnes - Ranger, Ronnie Wilson-Ranger.

Book Department

Free and Inexpensive Books — (Order from Sources)

First Aid and Care of Small Animals—by Ernest P. Walker—35c, free to teachers.

Humane Biology Projects—free to

teachers—Welfare Institute, 22 East 17th Street, New York 3, New York.

Natural Resource Use in our Economy — by William H. Stead, with Study and Teaching Aids by George L. Fersh. (\$1.25)—Conservation and Resource Use Education Project, Joint Council on Economic Education, 2 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York.

Turn to the Sea—by Athelston Spilhaus—The International Oceanographic Foundation, Coral Gables, Florida.

CONSERVATION FILM MADE IN FLORIDA

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE Federation and the Remington Arms Company, Inc., currently are sponsoring a conservation film, titled "Runways in the Wild," in cooperation with the U. S. Air Force.

The 14½ minute movie, in 16mm sound-and-color, is planned for release early in 1961. Produced by Douglas Productions, Inc. of Chicago, Ill., the film will be distributed by the sponsors and the Air Force for public interest television use and showings before civic groups and schools all over the country.

Utilizing facilities at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, "Runways in the Wild" portrays a graphic account of how natural resources at defense installations are being managed for public recreation, by both military personnel and the general

public, and other conservation goals. Many of the conservation practices outlined in the film are applicable to both public and private lands.

In an entertaining fashion, an Air Force crewman writes his father to tell of outdoor experiences which he and his young son are enjoying at Eglin Field. The camera actually visits many of the conservation projects referred to in the narration.

Film sequences were obtained through the cooperation of the Commanding Officer at Eglin Air Force Base, officials of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and members of the Florida Wildlife Federation, a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

New Programs

1961 promises many things among which are special programs sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Junior Garden Club Conservation Program

Camp Fire Girls, Inc. of Florida

Opening of the New Youth Conservation Camp in South Florida.

Others will be announced from time to time.

That's it for this issue. Remember what the little girl said as she defined Conservation?

CONSERVATION IS WHAT WE EAT AND WHAT WE WEAR AND WHERE WE LIVE, AND IF YOU DON'T, WE WON'T. . . .

How about that? ●

CLUB NEWS



BY
CHARLES
WATERMAN

This is the eleventh in a series of reports on the operation of sportsmen's clubs.

THE COMMITTEES do the real work. It is from the committees that club leadership must come. It is into committee work that the retiring officer should turn his experience and energies.

Selection of committees has been touched upon before in these reports but here is something different—the technical advisory committee.

This is a pious idea. It is sure to work. It does not take much effort. And it seems impossible to sell it to the clubs. Perhaps we'll have better luck in the future. Here is the plan:

First we appoint a chairman, who should be respected member of the club and be well known in the community. A good vice president can serve in this capacity or the president himself can do the job.

Then the chairman goes forth to set up a committee capable of giving specialized, technical advice to the club on conservation matters. The members of this committee can be outside the club if desired. Usually at least part of them will not belong and this is all to the good for we now have an automatic public relations contact working for us. Now, here they are:

The county agent and a soil conservationist. These people could give quick insight to soil problems that the average club member would miss completely. They can be of great aid in keeping fish and game projects compatible with soil conservation and are an important link to the farm population—badly needed if the club membership tends to be urban.

Member of a Board of Health. There's the man who knows about pollution of water and air. He knows about the problems of public parks

and campsites. He gets information from many sources that aren't available to the club.

A forester. This fellow's value is obvious. Probably he has a sound background in game management and is as interested in that field of conservation as he is in the wise use of timber. He may need help from the club and the club certainly can use help from him.

An attorney. Here's a man the legislative committee is likely to call on repeatedly. He can be a valuable ally against problems of conservation law enforcement. He's a contact with the legal profession. There is an increasing tendency for sportsmen's clubs to aid in the prosecution of game and fish law violators. He is a ready source of advice in this work.

A salt water conservation officer. He can be a real help when salt water information is needed in a hurry. His recommendations are likely to be the result of department policy and worthwhile to any club.

A wildlife officer. Here is the direct contact with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. He may not set policy but he understands your problems and he spends a lot of time in the areas you're interested in.

A biologist. A doctor of medicine is a good choice here and it is pretty well known that doctors are often hunters and fishermen.

An educator. Conservation is in the interests of youth and it is youth that must take it over.

Now, if you look over the list just finished, you'll find it pretty well covers the technical aspects of conservation work.

It is quite likely that this committee would never meet. In fact, there aren't many occasions when anything could be gained by such a meeting. It would work like this:

Say the legislative committee is concerned about some bill in the Legislature which would in some way change the status of a large hunting area. He would bring the problem to the chairman of the technical committee who would break it down into phases—a work of seconds.

He can see no county agent or soil conservationist angle so he passes those two; there is no health problem so he moves on to forestry and finds that he can learn something from a forester. The area is in a national forest. He then decides to check with the attorney to see if the proposed legislation is really legal. He passes the Conservation Officer, checks for an opinion with the Wildlife Officer, figures he now has the word and he may not have to call on his biologist or his educator.

So, the committee that never meets comes through with the facts and the legislative committee decides what to do and brings it before the membership.

This is an obvious dividend. Let's look at a few by-products.

In the first place, the very act of appointing this committee is a piece of public relations. The people approached are made conscious of an organization they may not have been aware of before. When they learn that they are not expected to spend much time on the job they are gratified to find the setup is businesslike and not wasteful. It gives a good impression of the club.

Secondly, the appointment of leading local persons to the committee can raise the stature of the club with the entire community. Dignified publicity accompanying their appointment will associate conservation with leading citizens.

(Continued on Page 39)

TURKEY TROPHY DE LUXE

By MAURICE NAGGIAR

THE BIG GOBBLER seemed to possess a charmed life. Time after time he eluded the hunter in a frustrating series of escapades. But finally one morning, by some flaw in his protective strategy the king turkey thundered up from a gallberry thicket within easy range. The roar of the twelve echoed through the flatwoods as an ounce and a half of chilled 2's overtook him. For a moment the gobbler paused in mid-flight then plunged noisily into the brush.

On the way back to his car, parked a mile away along the dim ruts of an old woods road, the hunter thought of the heavy bird he carried. He had examined the long beard, the heavy spurs, and the glossy fan of the tail. Also he had admired the rainbow display of burnished metallic hues of the body plumage where the sunlight played on the feathers. Too bad, he thought, that there is not some way those beautiful feathers could be worked into a trophy. Somehow it seemed that the hard won victory over the swamp king deserved a more fitting memorial than the beard and perhaps the fan tacked up on the wall. Such trophies were a dime a dozen among the other avid turkey hunters of his acquaintance.

By the time he reached home, the hunter, O. Earle Frye of Tallahassee had come up with an idea that developed into as unique a hunting trophy as you are apt to run into anywhere. The preserved skin of the bird is mounted entire on a nice-

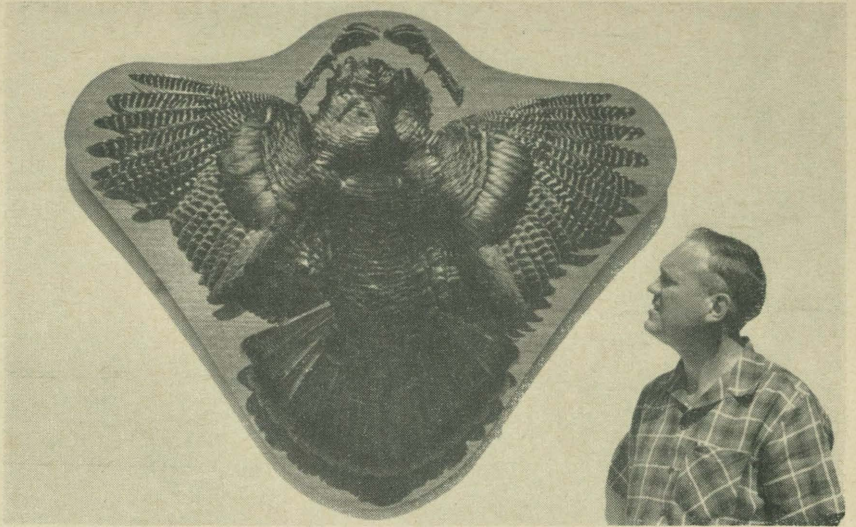
ly finished plaque of appropriate shape. The idea is similar to that of the felt-lined animal skin rug so popular for "outdoorsy" wall and floor decoration.

Making up a similar trophy for yourself is not at all a difficult project. Here is how to go about it.

1. Make an incision through the skin on the uppermost side of the breast. Work carefully so as not to cut into the underlying meat. Extend the cut to the lower side of the bird's neck then on down the other side and around to the point of beginning. The skin of the back and upper breast is required in addition to wings and tail. Examination of the photo will suggest the proper skinning cut.

2. Using the fingers only, separate the skin from the underlying flesh. Give special attention to the tail, leaving plenty of meat and connective tissue to hold the tail feathers together. The wings are disjointed close to the body. The skin on the undersides of the wings should be slit and the heavy muscle carefully removed. The neck skin is laid open with a straight cut up the underside from breast to base of the head. The head itself is now cut off.

3. The clinging bits of muscle and connective tissue should be carefully trimmed from the inside of the skin. The entire inner surface of the skin is now well dusted with borax which should be rubbed into the



O. Earle Frye, Tallahassee gobbler hunter, with unique turkey trophy de luxe.

skin. Pay special attention to the wings and tail base.

4. The feathers should now be arranged. To do this, grasp the neck skin at the upper edge and shake the skin vigorously. This operation fluffs the feathers and they will drop naturally into their proper position.

5. Using a large square of insulating wall board—a piece of plywood, cardboard, or even a garage wall would serve—lay out the skin with the flesh side up and carefully tack it out to dry. Drive brads or finishing nails into the edge of the skin and into the drying board. Space them closely for best results. Wing and tail feathers are held in the desired position by strips of cardboard tacked over them. This will keep them properly spread until dried into position. More borax should now be applied to the skin. Next place the drying board in a shaded but airy and dry room.

The skin should be dried thoroughly in a week or perhaps a bit more, depending upon the temperature and the humidity.

6. The dried skin is fastened to the plaque by means of closely spaced tacks. The overlapping feathers cover the tack heads so they cannot be seen. The dried feet, coated with clear shellac as a protection, may be fastened to the plaque with metal bands. Large screw eyes, spread to admit the legs, may be used for the purpose. ●

WHAT ABOUT



SHOOTING PRESERVES?

Commercial preserve operators are
continually experimenting
with methods of conditioning
birds for the field

By CHARLES DICKEY

FLORIDA SHOOTING PRESERVES

- 1 Medi-Lodge, Inc., Box 65, Bronson, Fla. — P Q C
- 2 Watson Shooting Preserve, Box 248, Newberry, Fla. — P Q M C
- 3 Shot & Feather Shooting Preserve, Box 187, Melbourne, Fla. — P Q C
- 4 Hunters Paradise, Inc., Box 1654, Ocala, Fla. — P Q M
- 5 El-Rancho, Shivers Hotel, Chipley, Fla. — P Q M
- 6 Dessie Smith's Shooting Preserve, Box 74, Inglis, Fla. — Q C
- 7 Duval Shooting Preserve, Box 5263, Jacksonville, Fla. — P Q
- 8 Black Jack Hills Shooting Preserve, Rt. 1, Box 37, Ocala, Fla. — P Q M
- 9 Ocala Hunting Preserve, Rt. 3, Box 99-B, Ocala, Fla. — Q

P = Pheasant Q = Quail C = Chukar M = Mallards

COMMERCIAL SHOOTING PRESERVES have been operating in Florida for three years. The first year there was one open to the public; this winter there are nine.

What do these preserves mean to the average sportsman? How do they affect the overall hunting picture? Are there disadvantages to preserves? Is the shooting sporty on commercial preserves? These are common questions that frequently arise and they should be answered.

A commercial preserve is a licensed area, restricted to 1,000 acres in Florida, where pen-raised game is stocked for a six-months hunting season. The hunter pays a fee to hunt on the privately owned and operated area and there is no bag limit. Since the game that is shot is essentially stocked birds there is no bag limit and the season may run from October 1 through March 31.

It would be highly desirable to have a six-months season on native game—except for one factor. The native game cannot stand that much pressure. But where modern incubators and brooders are substituted for Mother Nature's yearly cycle, game birds can be turned out by the thousands for stocking before and during the preserve season.

One need only drive through Florida to see how the vast developments are gobbling up hunting land. And if one is interested in statistics, he knows that America is having a population explosion.

There are few hunters in America today who have not run into the problem of a place to hunt. Despite Florida's progressive program of refuges, wildlife management areas, management of military lands and other programs, it is becoming more difficult each year to have enough huntable areas and game for the general public. What will it be like 15 years from now in 1975?

Every hunter likes to recall the good old days when he could hunt about where he pleased and the bag limits were high. I can remember talking to one hunter who quit hunting ducks when the daily limit dropped below 25; another quit shooting quail when the limit was reduced below 25. The days of unlimited game are gone forever. An expanding population, industrial development, highways, changing agriculture, pulp wood growing and other factors have destroyed the old order. If we are to continue to have hunting, we must use different approaches. Shooting preserves are now just beginning to provide *part* of the answer. Preserves are no panacea; they are just one of several ways of trying to provide hunting.

Let's try to be as realistic as we can about the future of hunting. In the first place, no one ever wanted to see the day come when it was necessary to do pre-season and in-season stocking of pen-raised

New techniques in raising quail have greatly improved the quality of the bobwhite's performance in the field.

Photos By Charles Dickey



Pheasant hunting can be enjoyed on all but two of Florida's nine shooting preserves.

game. Certainly it is more desirable to hunt native game. And no one ever wanted to see the day when hunters would be charged for hunting.

It is now apparent with the zooming population in Florida that the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and other agencies which work with wildlife, can use an assist from private enterprise. Americans have always been proud of their initiative and free enterprise system. Why keep these traditional factors out of wildlife? Why shouldn't sportsmen have more recreational areas which are privately owned and operated for a profit?

State and Federal agencies are necessarily limited by annual budgets in what they can provide. There are no limitations to private enterprise in America.

Commercial shooting preserves are ultimately controlled by the sportsmen. It is a simple economic fact that only as many preserves as the sportsmen are willing to support will stay open. A commercial preserve cannot stay open unless sportsmen pay their money to hunt on it.

Looking ahead 15 years, as the sportsmen find it more difficult to locate a place on which to hunt and game to shoot, then they will be more willing to pay a fee to visit a commercial preserve. That will create a demand and there will be more preserves. But they will not grow any faster than the rate at which the sportsmen will support them.

The artificial reproduction of game—with incubators, brooders and flight pens—provides a quantity of game never dreamed of in nature. A native pair of bobwhite quail will on the average bring off one clutch of about 15 chicks a year. But in captivity it is not unusual for a pair of bobwhite quail to produce 150 fertile eggs or more a year by the use of artificial lighting.

The plantation country north of Tallahassee offers some of the finest quail hunting in the world. Millions of dollars have been spent by the large land-owners

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from Preceding Page)

to develop feed and cover and have as high a quail population as possible. The ultimate limiting factor of the native quail population is the quail itself. It will not be crowded beyond a certain point, as Herbert E. Stoddard pointed out years ago in his classic quail studies.

One native quail per acre is tops for any large area over an extended period. Three coveys of quail, or 45 birds, per 100 acres is good quail land. Shooting preserve operators are limited to 1,000 acres so let's use that acreage as a starter. If the land has been perfectly developed and everything goes just right, let's say the quail population would be 1,000 native birds. Sportsmen would be lucky to harvest 500 birds off of 1,000 acres. If the area was rated "good," then there would be three coveys per 100 acres or 30 coveys on the 1,000 acres. Using 15 as the average to a covey, the hunters would be doing good to harvest 225 birds off the tract.

Let's see what a commercial operator can provide with the same acreage by in-season stocking as birds are needed. It is not uncommon for a well-managed preserve to have from 10,000 to 15,000 quail stocked on it during the six-months season. The harvest of stocked birds may be anywhere from ten to 40 times higher than what the harvest would be if the area was managed only for native birds.

When a native quail is harvested, it takes nature about a year to replace it. When a stocked bird is shot, it can be replaced the same day from a flight pen.

Some Florida game breeders are now raising from 15,000 to 25,000 quail a year. The game farm of ten years from now may be turning out 50,000 to 100,000 quail a year. These will be sold to commercial preserve operators for in-season stocking and to private preserves for pre-season in-season stocking.

The use of pen-raised birds also means that new species can be shot. While ringnecked pheasants and chukar partridge do not reproduce in the wild in Florida except on rare occasions, the birds thrive in pens and are very adaptable for in-season stocking on preserves. Mallard ducks can also be raised by the thousands for use on special flighting areas.

A well-managed commercial preserve might possibly handle 10,000 quail, 2,000 pheasants, 2,000 chukar and 1,000 mallards in a single season on 1,000 acres. This is a concentration of game completely impossible in nature. And look at the number of hunters this amount of game would satisfy on a limited area.

How does the pen-raised bird compare with his native cousin? Of course the native bird is better. There is no argument about this point. The native bird will consistently give a better field performance. Any certainly any hunter would prefer to shoot a native bird to a stocked bird.

What about the hunter who does not have a convenient place on which to hunt native birds? He then

Close - working quail dogs have little trouble in converting to pheasants.

Photos By
Charles Dickey



has the choice of going to a commercial shooting preserve or a managed area. Perhaps a high percentage of hunters today are not so brutally faced with this decision. But what will it be like in 1970?

Who uses shooting preserves today? It is not simply the man who does not have a place to hunt. Many sportsmen, particularly doctors, are short on time. Maybe they have only one afternoon off a week. They do not have time to go on a long trip but they can dash out to a preserve for three or four hours of hunting.

Most preserves have areas that are easy to walk through, or they have jeeps for hauling the hunters. This is ideal for elderly hunters who are no longer able to hunt rough terrain. Preserves also have proved to be ideal for teaching youngsters to shoot. Besides the abundance of game, many operators now have hand or practice traps for clay targets.

In a tourist state as Florida, we cannot overlook the fact that preserves are another attraction to winter visitors. The tourist coming to Florida seldom has connections where he can hunt native quail and the commercial preserve is a great convenience to him.

Many city hunters no longer have dogs. If they use preserves, they need not worry since dogs are furnished. Well-managed preserves, where guides, dogs, jeeps, and a clubhouse are provided, are great places of convenience to hunters.

The sportsman who has never hunted on a commercial preserve is greatly concerned as to whether or not the birds will fly properly and if the hunt will be as sporty. He should rightly be concerned.

Of the upland game birds used on preserves, the ringnecked pheasant gives the highest percentage of good flights. The reason for this is that the pheasant does not tame down in captivity.

Bobwhite quail and chukars are extremely difficult to manage for the simple reason that if a great deal of care is not taken the birds will tame down. If

they are over-domesticated, then naturally they will give a poor field performance.

It is only in the past five years that quail have been used to any degree on commercial preserves in America. There was a period when some preserve operators thought the quail and chukar were hopeless.

The greatest growth in shooting preserves in the nation has been in the past five years. Smart operators have conducted hundreds of experiments to find better techniques for handling upland birds. Feed companies, the arms and ammunition industry, state agencies and colleges are now experimenting with better ways to raise conditioned birds for in-season stocking.

The field of game breeding is moving so fast that it is hard to keep up with new developments. Better techniques for managing game birds are being discovered and refined each year. The field performance of the bobwhite quail and chukar is being constantly improved.

The progressive preserve operator has as his goal that he will provide hunting as near like the hunting for native game as is humanly possible. Every year he gets a little closer to that goal but he still has a long way to go with quail and chukar.

How good are the shooting preserves in Florida? As in any other business, there are some fine operations and there are some that are far from being ideal. It's similar to the restaurant business: There are the top dining places which are a delight to visit, the average cafe and the hot-dog stand.

Hunters are slow to try preserves. Unfortunately they make up their minds about preserves on the first trip they make. If they happen to choose a good preserve, then they think that type of hunting is great. If their first visit is to a below-average preserve, then they jump to the conclusion that all preserves are unsatisfactory.

The sincere hunter should try three or four shooting preserves to get a broader picture. Then he can decide whether or not he likes this kind of hunting.

Quail zooming off in all directions shake up these two preserve hunters and canine companion.



Commercial preserve operators have considerable expense and there is a small margin of profit, if any. It is easy to tie up \$30,000 to \$50,000 in setting up a top preserve and there is rarely any profit before the preserve has been operated from two to four years.

The hunter should encourage the preserve operator who is risking his money and time in an effort to provide more recreation. The hunter should be patient with the preserve operator. Actually preserves are in a growing and experimental stage and the operators are spending hard cash in an effort to learn the best methods of raising game and managing it in the field. There is no question but that the smart operator will continue to improve the quality of hunting.

It has not been so many years ago when game breeders used bantam hens for hatching game bird eggs; they didn't think the eggs could be hatched in quantity in incubators. But now they bring off single hatches of 500 to 3,000 quail. New anti-biotics have been of tremendous help in fighting various game bird diseases. Nutritional studies have helped develop high-protein feeds so that the pen-raised bird often gets a better balanced ration than his native cousin. Preserve operators have worked out ways of weather-conditioning and flight-conditioning young birds so that they have a better chance of survival when stocked and also give a better flight performance.

The start and growth of preserves in the nation can be tied in almost exactly with populations. The first preserve legislation was passed in 1911 in New York and the first commercial preserves to open were near our largest metropolitan area. Other high-population states which followed with preserve legislation were Pennsylvania, Illinois, Connecticut, California and New Jersey. Now 41 states, including Hawaii, have legislation which allows preserves to operate on an extended season basis.

One obvious disadvantage of shooting preserves is that not every hunter can afford them. But the preserves do take some pressure off of other lands by satisfying a portion of hunters who can afford commercial shooting.

The experienced hunter or fisherman never actually counts up what his trips cost; his wife might make him stay home if she ever found out. Some hunters say that they can actually hunt cheaper on preserves than they can native hunting, if all expenses are taken into consideration.

Anyone in the middle income bracket can certainly afford one or two trips a year to a preserve. The history of preserves in other states has been that the longer preserves are in operation the more there will be that cater to the middle income bracket. For instance, in states as New York and Pennsylvania, sportsmen can hunt on some preserves for \$10 with the assurance of bagging at least two pheasants. The

(Continued on Page 41)

THE MOST DRAMATIC moment in fishing, as far as I'm concerned, is when an old buster bass gingerly mouths a shiner minnow bait and starts moving away with it—the bowed fishing line slowly, almost deliberately drawing taut. The suspense is terrific. You've got to wait impatiently for that precise instant to strike. He's got to have time to get the bait well in his mouth, down where the hook point will sink deep and stay there, yet you don't want to wait too long. Then the bass will get the minnow into his gullet. One hooked in this region usually dies, and you might wish to release the fish unharmed. Timing is the secret.

A free-fishing shiner minnow is deadly on black bass. A large and sassy shiner is best, one that will struggle and give a lot of motion. There also is lots of sound logic in the old adage: To catch big bass, use big baits. This is particularly

true when fishing for bass with minnows.

The minnow is probably the best all-round bait found anyplace. Just about every game fish feeds on minnows at one time or another. And you don't need any fancy or elaborate tackle to fish with minnows. In fact, one of the best bass rigs is a long and limber canepole with an equal length of line, a hook and a king-sized shiner minnow. The angler poles slowly and quietly along in his boat, dappling the minnow in likely looking spots. The minnow will wallow on the surface, fighting to regain its equilibrium, when suddenly there will be a violent boil and the minnow will vanish. The canepole gives the fisherman leverage to drive the hook home and horse the bass free of the tangling hyacinths, water lillies and other shoreline growth.

If you prefer a casting or spinning (very good for this type fish-

ing) rig, you can lob an unweighted shiner up close to the shoreline cover and allow it to swim down around the cool hyacinth roots where lazy grandpa bass hang out. Lying there docilely, fins fanning lazily, he will study the struggling minnow for a few moments, then will advance on it cautiously. Gingerly he will take the bait fish in his mouth. An eager yearling may pounce hungrily on the minnow, but not a wise and cautious lunker. You can't hurry him.

Perhaps he'll move back in the protective cover, still holding the minnow lightly in his jaws, before deciding to swallow it. An angler too quick on the trigger will only jerk the minnow free. Some fishermen leave slack in the line, watching for it to draw tight; others open the bail of the spinning reel or allow the casting reel to run freely, letting the unsuspecting bass pull out slack. Soon the bass will turn the minnow and start it down head first. Once he gets it about halfway down to his gullet, he's most vulnerable to a hard-driven hook.

Suddenly the water will explode like a depth charge going off, and the big glistening bass will come twisting skyward, his wildly shaking head showering the hyacinth pads with droplets. Here the minnow fisherman has a slight advantage over his artificial-lure counterpart. The bass will have no weight to use in shaking the hook loose. A fishing plug rattling around in his mouth might work free, but he'll have a time pulling away from a deeply embedded single hook.

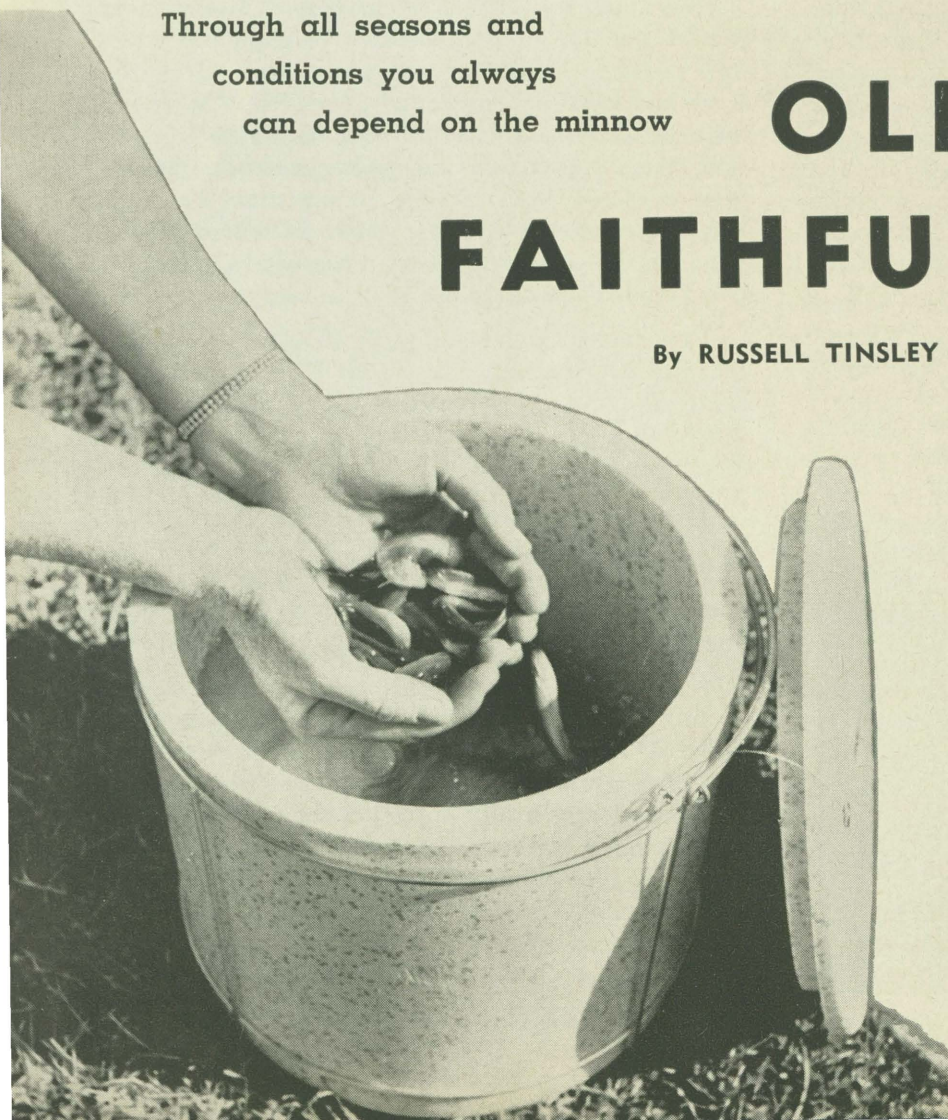
The minnow is No. 1 on the speckled perch's diet. All the artificials used on crappie like tiny bucktail jigs and white quivering-type plugs are fashioned with the minnow in mind. But through all seasons and conditions, the minnow will be far and away the best bait for speckled perch.

When fishing for crappie I like to

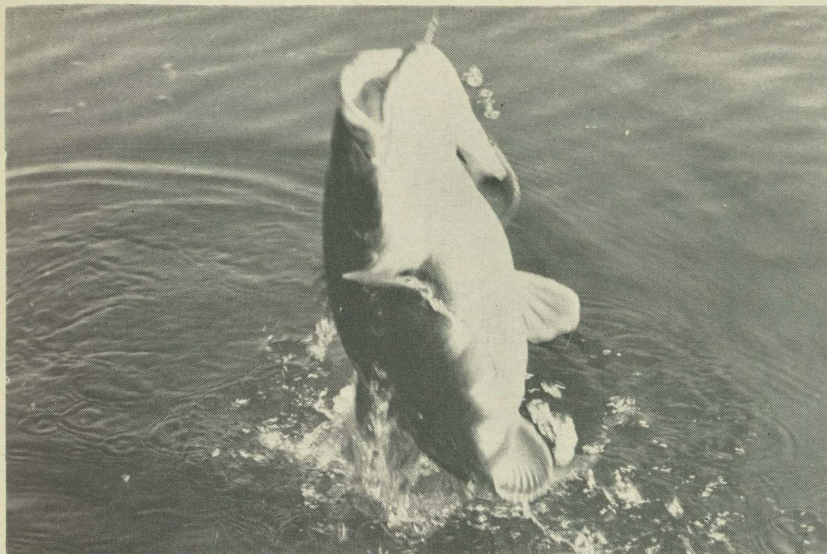
Through all seasons and
conditions you always
can depend on the minnow

OLD FAITHFUL

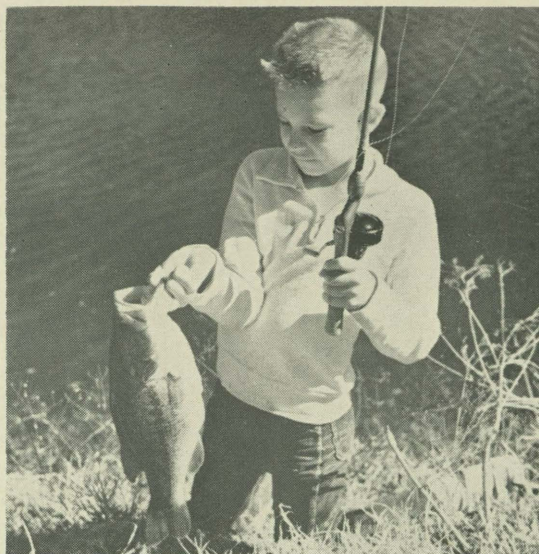
By RUSSELL TINSLEY



Here is a handful of topflight fishing bait in a new
"breathing" type minnow bucket.



A belligerent bass feels the hook and heads skyward.



Patience can mean big bass.

tie a small bell-shaped sinker on the end of the main line, add a snelled hook about a foot up and another a foot or so above that. Except for a brief period during early spring when crappies move into the shallows and can be caught near the surface, they usually are found somewhere near bottom. At times the lower hook gets the most action, while on others the top one dominates the play. It pays to cover all fertile water for consistent pay-offs.

A minnow can be hooked in several different ways. Most anglers either impale the minnow through both lips or just behind the dorsal fin, above the spine so that the minnow isn't fatally crippled. A few even hook them through both eyes (this won't kill the minnow), or through the tails.

When the fisherman lowers a wigglng minnow down near bottom, he never knows what might latch on. I've caught just about every game fish imaginable with this method—speckled perch, bass, bream and catfish. Occasionally, the minnow is a topflight bait for bottom-feeding cats, particularly the sporty channel catfish.

For cats, however, the minnow doesn't necessarily need be alive. I've had just as good results by stringing the minnow lengthwise

from mouth to tail on a long-shanked hook and fishing it right on bottom or a few inches up with a cork bobber. The minnow isn't a good all-round bait for bream, but sometimes tiny minnows will catch sunfish, especially the larger bluegills.

Trolling minnows is, at times, a surefire method for catching bass. A lure or trolling sinker is used to carry the minnow down and keep it riding at a pre-determined depth. This depth of course depends on the season and the depth the fish are most apt to be concentrated. Most trolling rigs are improvised by tying a piece of monofil about twenty to thirty inches long behind a plug or trolling sinker and putting a hook and minnow on the end of the leader. When trolling I prefer to hook the minnow through the lips to give it a lifelike forward motion through the water.

There are various ready-made trolling outfits on the market. Some use "spreaders" with the lure on one end and the spinner and hook on the other. No. 1 or No. 2 Aberdeen hooks are good for trolling since you can grasp the line and slowly straighten the hook when the rig fouls on bottom. The hook then can be bent back to shape with a pair of pliers and used again. A big minnow is best for trolling, the larger the better.

Keeping minnows alive for any length of time used to be a headache, but modern minnow buckets have eliminated much of this problem. Nowadays "breathing" type buckets keep minnows alive and hardy for hours without replenishing the water. Commercial chemicals in tablet form on the market are good for supplementing the natural oxygen supply in the water, especially if you plan on keeping the minnows for any length of time. The time-honored bucket with the perforated insert still is good, but it is troublesome to replace it in the lake or stream each time you move.

The artificial bait remains by far the most popular of all methods for taking bass, simply because when fishing with lures there always is action, even if it is only casting the plug. But there never has been an artificial concocted which will replace the original thing it imitates. Some people will lead you to believe that there is no challenge or sport to catching a big bass with minnows. Anyone who makes such a foolhardy claim evidently has never tried it. Minnow fishing is both dramatic and exciting—and usually the most productive of all baits during any given day or season. Certainly it is the most consistent anyway, and will pay off with the largest variety of game fish. ●

This scene at Porter Pond illustrates the need for more public access points and boat launching ramps throughout the Choctawhatchee Watershed.



Photo By Ronald Higgins

Part 2

Lake Cassidy
Crystal Lake
Porter Pond
Gap Pond

Keith Byrd, Project Leader
Phil Hester, Fishery Biologist
Mary Ward, Secretary

Choctawhatchee Watershed

THE LAKE AND STREAM SURVEY began work on the Choctawhatchee Watershed during the summer of '57 and completed sampling during the winter of '59. Work was slowed somewhat by an unusual amount of personnel changes and the record breaking winter of '57.

When the sampling was started most of the area was still suffering from an extended dry period. Even now a few of the shallow lakes haven't regained their normal holding capacity.

It is commonly believed that these fluctuation extremes, permanently hurt fishing and that remedial practices such as stocking are necessary to improve conditions. Population samples proved that such is not the case here. In fact, when the water level rises after a dry period, fish are immediately available to the fishermen.

Many natural lakes throughout the state are out of balance and offer very poor fishing, but the lakes in the Choctawhatchee Watershed were found to be in good balance with abundant populations. The reasons for this excellent balance are not fully understood, but two possible explanations are:

1. The extreme water fluctuation constitutes a form of natural renovation, alternately cutting the population during dry periods and then creating immense spawning stimuli as the water rises.
2. The low basic fertility which is predominate throughout the Watershed, keeps in check the prolific forage fish which usually cause the unbalanced conditions.

The most pressing and universal problem of the Choctawhatchee Watershed is access. Practically all the

lakes have to be reached by ungraded and unmarked sand roads, then there are no boat ramps or parking facilities to accommodate visitors. Recently the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission constructed an excellent ramp on Gap Pond, this is the only concrete lake ramp in the Watershed.

The Choctawhatchee River also is drastically low on public access points. There are only two ramps from the Alabama Line to Choctawhatchee Bay, a stretch of approximately 80 miles.

We feel this is a serious matter, for continued building and fencing could eventually close most of the access points people are now using. The state and county should combine their efforts to protect the fishing rights of the public, and build and maintain roads and boat ramps in as many areas as possible.

In most of the Choctawhatchee Watershed and its tributaries there are large numbers of logs and tree tops in the water. In most cases the tree tops provide excellent fishing, but the naked snags and rotted dead heads serve no useful purpose, in fact, they have caused many serious boating accidents.

These logs which reach 2-3 feet in diameter, have lain for years in the mud along the river bottom. If in good shape they bring a premium price. Groups engaged in selling these logs probe up and down the river bottom until one is located, then large hooks are attached and it is pulled up and checked. Logs in good shape are pulled out and sold, those which cannot be used are released to drift just beneath the surface increasing the danger to those traveling the river. We feel that the groups doing this line of work should be required to pull out any log they lift from the bottom. This would stop the addition of new snags in the already infested waters.

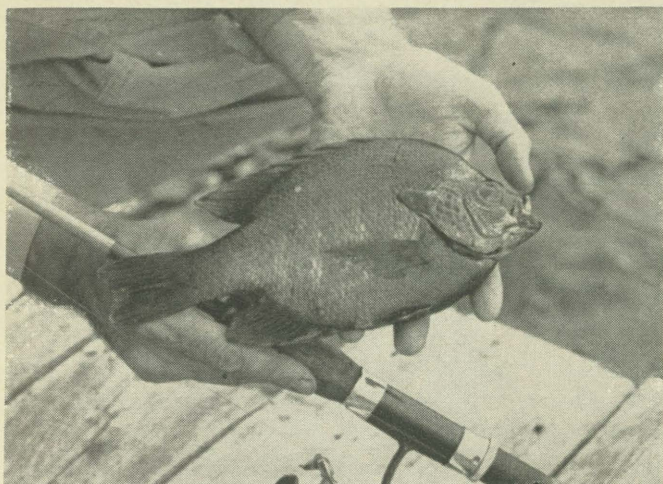


Photo By Bill Hansen

Although bass and pickerel populations are good in Lake Cassidy, bluegill bream are extremely abundant, offering excellent sport for the panfishing visitors from Alabama and Georgia.

LAKE CASSIDY

As in many cases, Lake Cassidy is becoming a target of varied interests. Local residents are joined with scores of Alabama and Georgia outdoorsmen that flock here to relax and enjoy nature's offerings. Accessibility, lovely scenery, and good fishing have all done their part in bolstering the popularity of this lake.

When spring, the best fishing season, rolls around; Cassidy fishermen select their favorite rod or pole and strike out to get a mess of bass or bluegills. To do this some use worms, others pick live shiners and still others like artificial lures. The place and time of day is also a matter of individual choice most, however, choose the maiden cane edges and small hooks. Some of the bass enthusiasts do their fishing at night with top water plugs. They find this method exciting and productive.

Date of Survey: 1957.

Size: 225 acres.

Location: Western Holmes and Eastern Walton Counties, Florida. Seven miles northeast of DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

Water Color: Colorless.

Aquatic Vegetation: Maiden Cane, Pickerel Weed, Sphagnum Moss, Spatterdock.

Bottom Type: The bottom consists of sand, mud, and some thin layers of silt. In densely vegetated zones a one to six inch layer of organic matter overlies the bottom.

Depth: Depth recordings showed the deepest point to be 32 feet.

Fluctuation: Very slight.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 5 miles of graded sand which is kept in good condition. Sand landings allow launching of moderate size boats.

Fishing History: Fishermen claim that over the past few years the fish have slightly decreased. This is probably due to the prolonged dry spell. Bass,

pickerel, warmouth, and bluegill catches have been impressive in the past.

Best Fishing Sites: Just outside the grass beds and in the small nooks around stumps and snags.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	Common
Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)	Common
Bluegill	Extremely Abundant
Warmouth	Abundant
Dollar Sunfish	Common

Non-Game

Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)	Common
Brown Bullhead	Occasional
Bowfin (Blackfish, Mudfish)	Common
Spotted Gar	Occasional
Eastern Chubsucker (Pond Sucker)	Abundant
American Eel	Rare

CRYSTAL LAKE

There are a number of glowing comments that could be used to describe the beauty of this lake, for it is rich in esthetical value. Although possessing an over abundance of natural splendor Crystal Lake still lacks the most important trait of all—good fishing. The white sand beaches and clear water while pleasing to the eye are closely associated with poor fish production. Clear water indicates a need for basic fertility necessary to produce a good population. An encouraging point which should be brought out, is that though the lake doesn't support an impressive fish population, the few bluegills present grow to an unusually large size. If seeking a world record for this species, Crystal Lake should certainly be kept in mind. Bass are also present and in fairly good numbers, they how-

(Continued on Next Page)

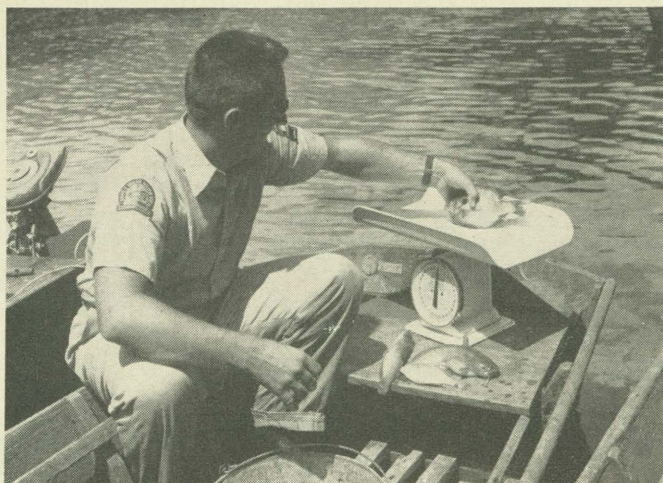


Photo By Ronald Higgins

Important part of the lake and stream survey is the compiling of special data, including identification, weight, measurements, and age classifications of available fish species.



Photo By Wallace Hughes

The spreading of Rotenone by special control, in small areas, is one method used by technicians to collect fish species for detailed study.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

ever, do not attain the size associated with most of Florida's largemouths, because small bream, their favorite food, are lacking.

Date of Survey: 1959.

Size: 151 acres.

Location: Washington County, Florida. Approximately 13 miles north of Lynn Haven, Florida.

Water Color: Colorless.

Aquatic Vegetation: St. John's Wort, Maiden Cane.

Bottom Type: Sand in the shallow areas and large deposits of silt in the deeper portions. In places this silt is from 10 to 20 feet thick.

Depth: The bottom is very uneven with numerous ridges and drop-offs. The deepest areas reach to a depth of almost 90 feet. In most cases the shore-line slopes gradually to a depth of around 20 to 30 feet and then abruptly drops off.

Fluctuation: Under normal conditions fluctuation is very slight. Evidently this lake is stabilized by underground springs entering somewhere in the bottom.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 1 mile of sand road leading from Highway #77. Any boats launched would have to be carried or drug 50 feet or more. This limits the size of boats to those which are handled easily.

Fishing History: Very little is known about the fishing history, because the fishing pressure is low. The bass usually run small, while most of the bluegills are above average size.

Best Fishing Areas: In the shallow grassy areas along shore.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	Abundant
Bluegill	Occasional
Warmouth	Occasional

PORTER POND

One end of Porter Pond is of the sandhill type, banks covered with scrub oaks and pines grade down to sand beaches and finally to slightly stained, but clear water.

The other end of Porter is shallow and grassy and eventually leads into a cypress swamp which supports most of the lake's fishing. Here bluegills and warmouths prefer redworms and wigglers, while bass favor both artificial plugs and salamanders (Puppy Dogs). The most effective way to use the Puppy Dog is to cast it near a grass bed or cypress tree and allow it to settle for a few seconds, then start slowly easing it along the bottom. If the old "Mossy Back" is around he can't resist this temptation.

Date of Survey: 1958.

Size: 908 acres.

Location: Washington County, Florida. Eight miles south, southeast of Wausau, Florida.

Water Color: Slightly stained.

Aquatic Vegetation: St. John's Wort, Floating Heart, Cut Grass, Bladder Wort.

Bottom Type: Mostly sand in the south end, with mud and decaying vegetation in the north.

Depth: Generally shallow in the north section with depths varying from 8 to 12 feet. Depths up to 24 feet in other areas.

Fluctuation: Normally between 6 to 12 inches, but during extended dry periods it varies greatly.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 7 miles of unpaved road, one-half mile of which is ungraded sand. Boat landing of sand. All could be greatly improved. One fish camp is present (see map).

Fishing History: Excellent for all type fishing before going dry. Gradually building and improving now that the lake has refilled.



Photo By Bill Hansen

Chain Pickerel, commonly called jackfish, are found in large numbers in Porter Pond, along with warmouth and dollar sunfish.



Photo By Ronald Higgins

Gap Pond, left, is edged with live oaks and cypress trees bearded with Spanish moss, presenting an inspiring picture of southland fishing.

The dollar sunfish, pictured below, is found in abundance in Porter Pond, and are common to anglers fishing Gap Pond.

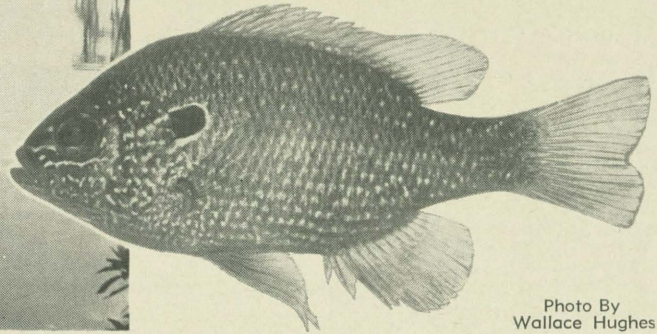


Photo By Wallace Hughes

Best Fishing Sites: Around grass beds and in the cypress swamp leading off the north end.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	Common
Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)	Abundant
Bluegill	Common
Warmouth	Abundant
Dollar Sunfish	Abundant

Non-Game Fish

Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)	Abundant
Spotted Gar	Occasional
Bowfin (Mudfish) (Blackfish)	Occasional
Eastern Chubsucker (Pond Sucker)	Abundant

GAP POND

Gap Pond for the most part is bordered with steep banks covered with spreading live oaks. These trees, bearded with spanish moss, present an inspiring picture of the living South. At the waters edge, these proud oaks are replaced by a tree of equal fame, the cypress. The cypress in turn quickly give way to extensive grass beds which often extend completely across the lake.

Grass beds, deep shores, and cypress sloughs offer the visitor a variety of choice, fishing spots all of which provide their share of good fishing throughout the year. The most popular and most productive spot is between the grass beds and shore. Here, there is usually an open strip around 5 or 6 feet deep that seems to be a favorite haunt for bluegill, warmouth, and bass. Pan fish are best taken with earthworms, catalpa worms, or crickets, while the old largemouth

finds it hard to resist a salamander (puppy dog) eased along the bottom.

Date of Survey: 1958.

Size: 429 acres.

Location: Washington County, Florida; approximately 5 miles south of Wausau, Florida.

Water Color: Stained.

Aquatic Vegetation: Yellow Water Lily, Cut Grass, Bladder Wort.

Bottom Type: Mud and silt.

Depth: For the most part, it runs shallow with an average depth of around 8 feet. The deepest part was found to be 26 feet.

Fluctuation: Normally 6 to 12 inches throughout the year.

Accessibility and Availability: Approximately 3 miles of graded sand road. An excellent boat ramp capable of handling large boats was recently constructed by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (see map).

Fishing History: In the past this has been a good bass and panfish lake.

Best Fishing Sites: Between the grass beds and shore, also in the deep nooks.

Recommendations: (See discussion).

CATCHABLE FISH PRESENT

Game Fish

Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	Common
Chain Pickerel (Jackfish)	Common
Bluegill	Abundant
Warmouth	Abundant
Dollar Sunfish	Common

Non-Game Fish

Yellow Cat	Common
Eastern Chubsucker	Extremely Abundant
Spotted Gar	Occasional

(Part 3 — Next Month)



Unparalleled thrill known only to the wildfowlers is that moment when distant specks hum into the recognizable green head and chestnut breast of the mallard.

SYMPHONY OF WINGS

The still waters of early morning suddenly erupt with a winged beat against the surface as the fog shrouded air vibrates with a mixed melody by feeding mallards.



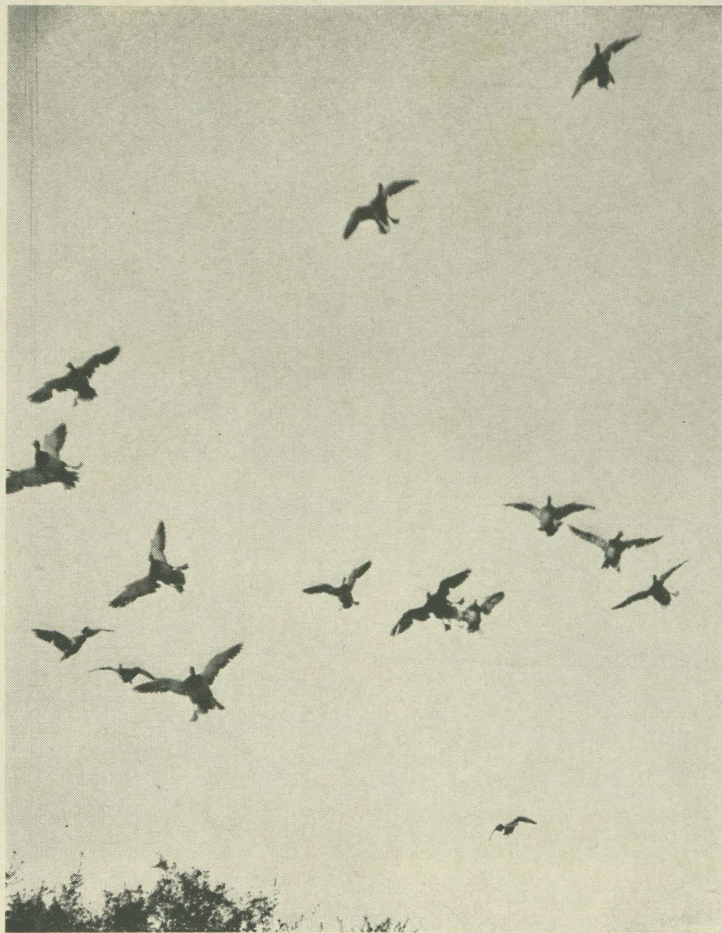
A sudden call of alarm, the wingbeat alters, and with flaring wings the magnificent mallard moves into the distance.





The fall migration southward; rhythm of beauty designed by the Creator to be enjoyed forever.

With precision performance the flock suddenly decrease tempo and descend to the lake.



IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN, and rightfully so, that the waterfowl hunter who has killed a duck and takes it from his retriever, or picks it up from a marsh surrounded mud flat, loves and understands that duck far more than the group that clamors for him to cease his hunting.

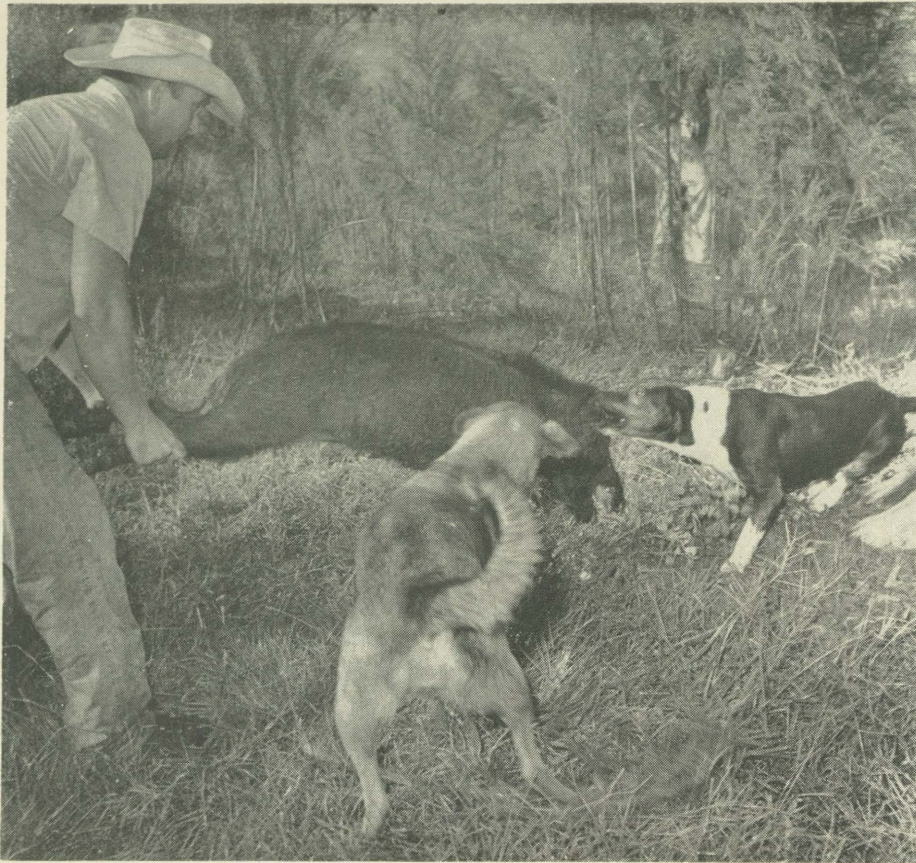
The wildfowler has in all possibility done more toward the conservation and continuation of his sport than any other type or kind of hunter. He has imposed more self restrictions on his sport, voluntarily taxed himself again and again by increasing the price of the duck stamp, contributed to organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and others designed to aid wildfowl. He has watched his gunning season and bag limit grow shorter with each year as valuable waterfowl nesting habitat continued to disappear.

Wildfowling is not just a thirty-eight day proposition for the man who really loves his ducks. He talks and thinks of them the year around, and plans to aid and help them when the shooting season is over. Many duck hunters go to the marsh before and after the hunting season just looking at ducks and enjoying this pleasure. They go to watch and observe the mystery of migration and to marvel at the symphony of wings. ●

PHOTO STORY BY JIM FLOYD



Satisfied that the migration is completed, the mallards glide toward their winter quarters; another spectacular has ended.



With the dogs distracting the mean sow's attention, "Junior" Cannon rushes and hand wrestles the hog, as Miss Dessie makes ready with a rope.

Our first
hunting excursion afield
this year can
well be catalogued as . . .

HIGH ON THE HOG

By EDMUND McLAURIN

MOST OF MY INCOMING long distance telephone calls are either expected or so closely tied in with seasonal activities that they are readily identifiable.

But when I returned to my typewriter to find the cryptic note, "Call Operator No. 7," the message had me puzzled. Who could be calling? Frankly, I could not guess as I dialed for the operator.

"You have a call from Inglis, Florida," Operator No. 7 informed me. "Will you hold the line, please?"

Over the wires I heard an exchange of telephone company lingo, but did not get the actual identity of the connections being made.

Then, suddenly, a familiar cheerful voice came over the wires, loud and clear. "That you, Mac?" . . . There was no longer any doubt in my mind who was calling.

Anyone who has known Miss Dessie Smith, operator of the Withlacoochee River Lodge and Hunting Preserve, on U. S. Highway #19, at Inglis, isn't likely to forget the unusual lady's voice—a slow Florida Cracker drawl, spiced with obvious girlish enthusiasm for hunting

and fishing, and occasional, spontaneous Cracker style humor. To me her voice was the cheerful hail of an old friend; in matters of hard, exciting hunting we share avid interest.

"We're opening the hog hunting season Saturday morning, Mac. Can you come up?" . . . Evidently, she incorrectly figured I needed additional sales talk, for she quickly added, "The hogs are plentiful this year and fat. We're sure to get action. You'll probably be able to get some pictures."

Her enthusiasm proved immediately contagious. I am afraid that some of Emily Post's students would have defined my next action as a serious social error: I accepted the invitation before even politely inquiring as to Miss Dessie's health and that of her staff.

"Just get here Friday night, or early enough Saturday morning to make a before daylight start," was her parting bit of information. . . .

Like deer, wild hogs habitually

do most of their serious feeding from late afternoon until shortly after daylight, then bed down in a cool spot during the high heat hours. In areas where they feed on root vegetation delectable to a hog, it is not uncommon to see deep furrows plowed in the soil bordering a pond or stream.

Hog scent disperses rapidly once the sun starts to climb in the sky. Therefore, for the best of hunting, it is decidedly advantageous to hunt early of morning when dogs can better find and follow scent trails left by hogs on the move. . . .

"I'll be there!" I said—and I was.

Since she cannot be guide for two widely separated hunting groups at one time, this season Miss Dessie has made arrangements with likeable Major Charley Branton, a happy to be home Cracker boy, just retired after 28 years of regular Army service, to help her on busy days. Also born and raised in the Southern scrub country, Branton shares Miss Dessie's enthusiasm for

the outdoors and has a background of field experience that makes him a capable guide.

Others who help guide hunting parties are equally colorful.

"Junior" Cannon, six feet, three inches, 195 pounds of hard muscle and bone, is one. A true Florida cowboy, he can throw a rope over and hog-tie anything that walks through the Florida scrub.

Then there is Herbert Wilkinson, age 20, born and raised within sight of the Withlacoochee River. Wilkinson knows wild hogs about as well as any human being ever gets to know them, and can locate them when others cannot. On occasion, he can vocalize magnificently, in explosive volume that can be heard almost a mile and that will be investigated by even the most disinterested hog.

I was fortunate in being able to share the season's first wild hog hunt and to have all named as hunting companions.

A couple of hours before dawn Saturday morning I reached my destination and immediately transferred shotgun and camera equipment from my car to one of Miss Dessie's Jeep station wagons, then helped load the dogs we would need for the morning hunt.

Charley and I were to ride with Miss Dessie, and Herb would drive one of the ranch trucks carrying a cage filled with a relief dog pack. We were to meet "Junior" Cannon in the scrub at 5:30.

A bulldozer operator, or a member of a logging crew, might find it well worthwhile to study the way Miss Dessie handles a Jeep in swamp water, sticky mud and sugar-sand—all sometimes in one morning's hunting. She bounced, jounced, swerved and bumped the audibly complaining car through barely visible openings in the woodland growth and across knee-deep creeks with apparent ease. Having driven through some pretty rough backwoods country myself, I know how unexpectedly driving conditions can change and how a car's steering wheel can sometimes suddenly twist from a driver's hands with surprising resistance.

"I told 'Junior' we'd meet him in the swamp at 5:30," was Miss Dessie's only comment. There wasn't any doubt in my mind that we would!

I don't know Miss Dessie's exact age, and I don't need to know, for she is a type of woman who seemingly is blessed with eternal youth.

Her zest for living each day to the fullest, her girlish smile and good sense of humor, together, keep her ever young—and constantly admired. Like others, I will simply say I've never seen a woman the equal of Miss Dessie, nor likely will I ever. I believe she is the only woman operating a pay-as-you-go hunting preserve who also personally guides on the more rugged of scheduled field trips.

The late Marjorie Kinnon Rawlings, author of *Cross Creek*, *The Yearling* and other best sellers, and Miss Dessie were good friends. Mention of their shared outdoor experiences appear frequently in *Cross Creek*, particularly. Briefly described is the night a skunk raided the chicken coop of Mrs. Rawlings, and how Miss Dessie accurately diagnosed the cause of the commotion and rushed out with Mrs. Rawlings, revolver and flashlight in hand, to dispatch the skunk with a single shot.

Then, in even greater detail, Mrs. Rawlings penned an account of how she and Miss Dessie put a small outboard craft into the navigable headwaters of the St. John's river, near Fort Christmas, for several hundred miles of boat travel and river-life camping, with Miss Dessie's revolver, .22 caliber rifle and fishing rod helping to supplement camp fare.

Of her friend, Mrs. Rawlings wrote fondly and in obvious admiration. "Miss Dessie is an astonishing woman," she penned. "She was born and raised in rural Florida and guns and campfires and fishing rods and creeks are corpuscular in her blood."

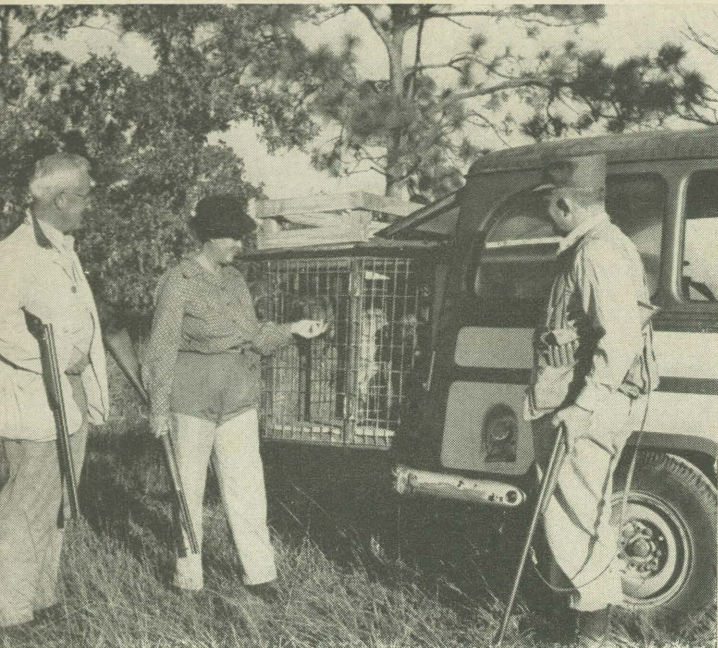
So far, no man has been able to keep up with Miss Dessie. At the moment, she's as free and as spirited as any wild creature roaming her vast acreage. It will take a very, very unusual man to entice and permanently domesticate Miss Dessie from her beloved Florida brush country.

Meanwhile, she is having the time of her life operating the Withlacoo-
(Continued on Next Page)



Miss Dessie pauses in the Florida scrub to listen for an answer to her come-back call to the dog pack.

Photos By
Edmund McLaurin



Although proud of her dog pack — Dessie Smith won't keep any dog that lacks courage. "I won't feed a coward!" is her sole explanation.

Photos By
Edmund McLaurin

(Continued from Preceding Page)
chee River Lodge and her pay-as-you-go shooting preserve, and personally guiding her guests.

The Withlocochee River preserve specializes in the hunting of native bobwhite quail, wild turkey and wild boar, on more than 200,000 acres of privately-owned land. In addition, the vast acreage of the state-managed Gulf Hammock area is immediately adjacent, for deer hunting of season.

Almost to the minute we kept our rendezvous with "Junior!"

Introductions were made rapidly and in the easy way characteristic of real Florida Crackers. Mention by Miss Dessie of the fact that I was born in Florida elicited what I sensed as added welcome in "Junior's" rough handshake.

"Yo'all git the dogs and follow me," was his next comment. "They's a slue of tracks up the trail a-ways, and they wuz made this morning."

"Got your camera all ready, Mac?" Miss Dessie inquired. "If we run onto a hog, you won't have time to mess around with a camera's in-nards."

"All set!" I said.

"Then let's get started," she replied, this time speaking to all, rather than to me.

We released four of the dogs and they instantly raced ahead. Two

were covered with scars and one favored a crippled left hind leg. I commented about the cripple.

"A big boar caught and crushed his foot," Miss Dessie explained. "Another time we almost lost Big Red, the dog you see leading the pack. We had to take 23 stitches in his hide. For a few days we didn't think he'd make it but, as you can see, he's still around."

In the hunting of wild hogs with dog pack, the breed of dog used is not as important as their fighting hearts. 'Tis said a true wild hog hunting dog is born to fight, with the love of combat in his blood!

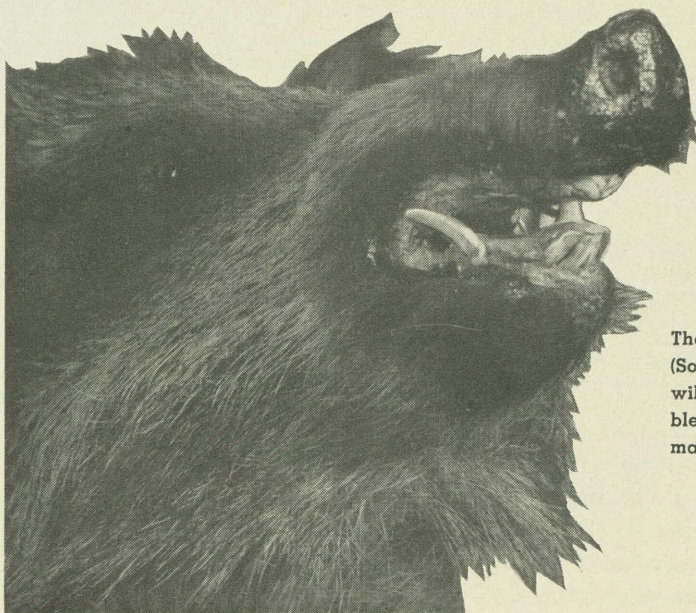
Most of Miss Dessie's hog hunting dogs are of mixed breeds, usually of long lost ancestral strain, but fighters all. In fact she won't keep any dog that won't fight. "I won't feed a coward!" is her sole explanation.

Although the mongrel cow country dog has proven his worth, some hog hunters feel that blood lines count, too, and favor a cross between a Weimaraner and a Boxer, for good trailing and effective close-in fighting once a hog is bayed.

But whatever the blood strain, a dog used for wild hog hunting must be courageous, able to absorb punishment and fast in reflex action. A "slow" dog seldom lives to old age.

The Florida wild hog should by no means be confused and ranked with the small and stupid javelina of the western states. Besides being tough, smart customers, our Florida wild hogs are also much larger—often weighing 200 to 300 pounds, with tusks or tushes (to use a Southern synonym) capable of fatally ripping open man or dog in one savage slash.

Undoubtedly, our present stock of wild hogs are descendants of animals brought to Florida by Spanish explorers more than 300 years ago, augmented by generations of domestic stock roaming in the wild state. The true Florida wild hog is black and large of ears and snout, although free roaming specimens of



The tusks, or tushes (Southern synonym) of a wild Florida hog are capable of fatally ripping open man or dog in one savage slash.

Unusual trophy being shown to guide Charley Branton and a guest is a rack of deer antlers with both sides splintered by a hunter's first bullet.

other hide hues may be just as mean and ready to do battle, if molested.

The swamps of the Oklawaha and Withlacoochee rivers, the palmetto-studded Gulf Hammock region and the sawgrass country of the Everglades are good places to seek wild hogs in Folrida.

A 12 gauge shotgun loaded with rifled slugs, or a rifle of the .30-30 class, should be the chosen weapon—if you are not sufficiently skilled in wild hog capture that you can rope and wrestle an animal into reluctant captivity, as some Cracker cowboys can do.

We hadn't followed the dogs more than 400 yards before combined canine clamor and brush-crashing alerted us and every wild animal within half a mile.

"The dogs have one!" Miss Dessie exclaimed. "Charley, bring your shotgun in case we need it. Mac, you stay close to Charley, and be ready with your camera. 'Junior' and I will try to rope the critter."

Photographing the action-packed climax of a successful wild hog hunt is usually far from easy. For one thing, the action is apt to be fast, furious, unpredictably sporadic and wandering. Once it starts, critical ground glass focusing is usually futile under the changing conditions encountered. Your best bet is to pre-set your camera's focus for a certain distance and an action-stopping shutter speed, then try to stay within the sharp depth of focus shield while awaiting opportune moments for tripping the shutter.

Also, a wild hog brought to bay will often make a come-and-fight-it-out stand against hunters and dogs along the fringe of low-lying palmetto scrub, making it extremely difficult to discern the animal's full body or facing direction, much less etch it on film! You can't work in too close, because the thick brush underfoot invariably precludes fast retreat should you suddenly become the hunted instead of hunter. A



mean boar, or sow, is something to avoid in cramped quarters, if you value your own hide and your camera. Admittedly, there are moments when you can work in close, but you definitely need to be more nimble than Jack of nursery rhyme fame if you are to get out of the way of an angry, destruction-bent hog suddenly in full charge from only a few feet away!

This was the situation I faced when we closed in on the hog the dogs were holding at bay and subjecting to more of a harassing, than effective action. It was a big sow and a mean one! She tossed several dogs back at us as fast as they rushed her in the palmettoes. However, when we appeared on the scene in full force the hog made a break for freedom, with the snarling, snapping dogs cutting off her escape route, in a clearing just short of another clump of palmettoes.

"Junior" and Miss Dessie quickly took advantage of the situation. While the dogs attempted ear and leg holds, "Junior" rushed in and grabbed the angry sow by her tail and her right leg. Miss Dessie somehow got hold of the left leg. Between the two of them, the strug-

gling hog was roped and tied in short order.

I had been snapping pictures as fast as I could operate my camera, but didn't know if I had caught the major action, so fast did it occur and change position.

"Well, that's one!" Charley commented. . . . I was still marveling at the expertness of "Junior" and Miss Dessie.

The roped—but still protesting—sow was taken back to the Jeep, and we all headed across the swamp to join Herb, who was scouting untried territory. We found him waiting for us, the other dogs still caged.

"There's plenty of sign about 150 yards from here," he said. "I think a big boar is holed up somewhere down by the river bank."

We watered the tired dogs, took a few minutes to plan our strategy, then released an entirely fresh pack of dogs from Herb's truck. The scene trail was strong and the dogs had no trouble following it. Their troubles started when they reached the source. So did ours.

This time the dogs were holding a big boar at bay. He could be seen under the low-lying palmetto fronds—head held close to the

(Continued on Page 37)



MALLARDS

Photo By Jim Floyd

DRAKE OR HEN?

Sex and Age
determination is an
important part
of waterfowl study

By JAMES EVANS

Project Leader
State Waterfowl Survey

YOU ARE PERHAPS one of the many Florida waterfowl hunters who, at the end of your hunt, have been asked by one of the Commission wildlife biologists for permission to examine your ducks or geese. If, in the hurry to get your decoys and other gear loaded or to get into some dry clothes, you paid any attention to this examination you were doubtless befuddled as to what was going on. Certainly you got no understanding as to why such work was done.

Actually, the reason for gathering information on age and sex of waterfowl during hunting season is not at all complicated. It is simply a matter of being able to determine the condition and status of the population and thus to effectively put into practice appropriate management measures and regulations.

Knowing the sex and age composition of a particular species population aids in determining the productivity and breeding potential of the species as well as the various effects of hunting and predator losses, the number of females serviced by a single male, rearing success and mortality rates, and a host of other factors. For example, if more adult ducks are killed than immature ducks, or if more females are killed than males, then there is over harvesting of the breeding population. Knowledge of this may aid in predicting the following year's productivity and will be very important in regulating the hunting season.

Many of the methods of sexing and aging waterfowl are simple and can readily be learned by the duck hunter. Many sportsmen are interested in knowing how to sex and age game they have killed if for no other reason than to show-up his fellow hunter. The duck hunter who can state, "This is an immature

hen mallard," carries more prestige than the hunter that says, "This is a 'grey duck' and is probably an old male because it is a big duck." With practice, every duck hunter could be his own "waterfowl technician" in aging and sexing waterfowl.

Keeping records of the seasons kill of ducks by species as to sex and age can result in interesting comparisons between years for the hunter's own personal use. More important, accurate data kept by the hunter could furnish the trained technician with much information that would take the technician considerable time to collect by himself.

The methods of sexing and aging waterfowl presented in this article have been gathered from various reference materials as well as from experience gained in the field. Some of the methods are practically fool proof; others have less reliability. One thing must be remembered, no one technique alone should be used in determining the sex and age of a species of waterfowl. Rather, several methods should be used with the final check being the cloacal examination or, if at all feasible, an internal examination of the gonads.

All methods of sexing and aging waterfowl are not presented in this report. Many valuable publications are available of wing patterns, plumage differences and sex and age differences. F. H. Kortright's, *The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America*, and R. H. Pough's, *The Audubon Water Bird Guide* are excellent books for the duck hunter. The free booklet published by the Atlantic Waterfowl Council titled *Florida Waterfowl Identification Guide* and available from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is of great help to the duck hunter especially in identifying species of waterfowl. The hunter no

doubt will be able to sex and age ducks more easily than to identify the duck he has shot. However, sex and age data are practically useless without knowing what species the data belong to.

Internal Examination for Gonads: An almost positive means of sexing any bird is by internal examination of the gonads, that is, looking for the testes in the males and the ovary in the female. Figure 1 exhibits some of the internal anatomy of a duck to facilitate finding the various organs mentioned.

Internal examination of dead birds calls for dissection or cutting into the body cavity to observe the gonads. Males have two testes located near the forward end of the kidneys on the back of the bird. In the adult male, the testes are a light color and greatly enlarged, especially during the breeding season. Immature testes may be indistinct due to their small size and coloration similar to the kidneys. Females have only one functional ovary, the left, although the right ovary has been known to become functional in cases of malfunction or disease of the left. The ovary of the adult female is large and white in color with small bunches of ova (eggs) within. These ova are usually 2mm or more in diameter. The immature ovary is usually a dull white and ova rarely approach 2mm in width. In the mature ovary, great variations of ova size occur, whereas in the immature ovary, the ova are relatively the same size.

The method of sexing and aging waterfowl in-

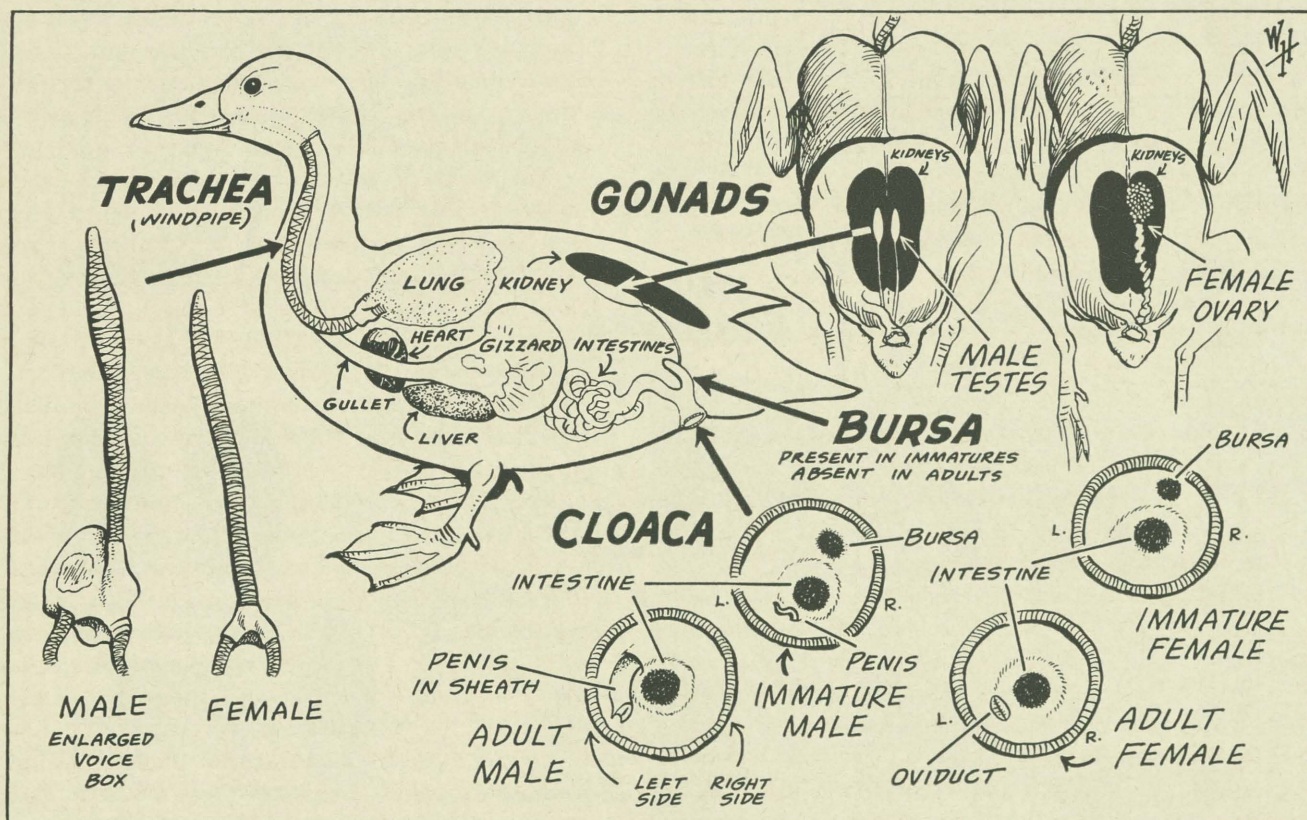
ternally is seldom used by the technician in the field for the majority of hunters dislike having their birds "cut up." When at all possible, however, internal examination for the gonads should be made to varify all other sexing and aging methods.

Cloacal Examination: The most popular and most often used sexing and aging technique is the cloacal examination. All normal male birds of the Order Anseriformes, Family Anatidae (the ducks, geese and swans) have a penis. Although the penis is present in all stages of the duck's life, it differs greatly between immature and mature males. Barring accident or mishap, the lack of a penis in ducks, geese and swans indicates a female bird.

Examination of the cloacal cavity is made with the bird on its back with the head toward the examiner. The vent of the bird is manipulated with the fingers separating the cloacal lips and applying pressure to expose the penis. The oviduct in the adult female is also noted in this manner.

In the immature male, the penis is a small corkscrew shaped structure attached to the forward wall of the cloaca inside the cloacal opening. The corkscrew shaped penis is retained in the adult male, but it is fleshier, larger and covered by a prominent sheath. The mature female has a distinct slit on the left forward wall of the cloaca; the opening of the oviduct.

(Continued on Next Page)



Internal Anatomy of a Duck Indicating Various Organs and Their Location

(Continued from Preceding Page)

This opening is covered by a membrane in the immature female.

Aging by Bursa: The most common and accurate way of aging waterfowl is inspecting for the presence or absence of the Bursa of Fabricius, a pouch-like structure lying on top of the cloacal opening. Although the function of this structure is not accurately known, its presence indicates birds of the year. A blunt tipped tail feather or primary feather is commonly used to probe for the bursa.

Plumage Differences: In the majority of ducks, the winter or dress plumage usually separates the males from the females. This is not true in black ducks or the Florida duck where the sexes resemble each other in color. In all other species, the brighter coloration of the drakes separates them from their less colorful mates, though plumage distinction is not always a reliable way of sexing due to the many plumage variations. With a few exceptions, i.e. the scoters and eiders, almost all ducks have two distinct plumages each year. The nuptial or winter plumage is the bright dress of most of the drakes we observe in Florida. The eclipse plumage constitutes a complete molt or change of all the feathers and the males resemble the dull drab coloration of the females of their species. Immature or juvenile plumage is usually held for eight weeks and young birds not yet wearing their nuptial plumage resemble the mother bird in coloration.

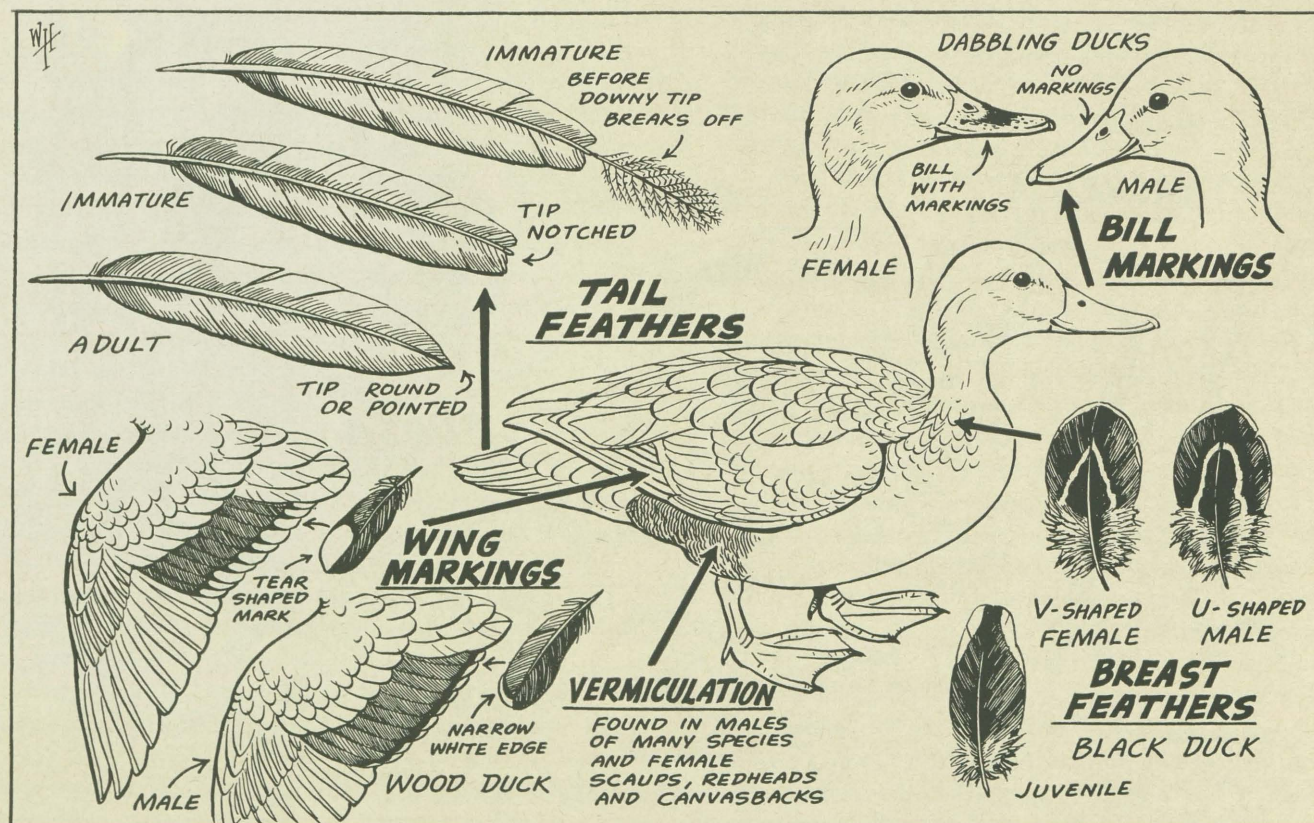
Scaup may hold their immature plumage until their first March or April. Wood ducks change into their nuptial plumage as early as August of their first year. Eiders and scoters take several years to reach full adult plumage.

Aging by Tail Feathers: In ducks, the immature tail feathers have a notched tip where the downy tail feathers have broken off. Presence of one or more notched tail feathers indicates an immature bird. Absence of any notched tail feathers after September does not necessarily indicate an adult bird. In all cases where the tail feathers are not notched, probing of the bursa should be done to determine the age of the bird.

Sexing by Vermiculation: Vermiculation, or light wavy worm-like barring of the plumage, is found on the males only, with a few exceptions. Females having vermicular feathers are scaups, canvasbacks and red-heads. Males lacking vermicular feathers are black ducks, Florida, New Mexican and mottled ducks, and goldeneyes, old-squaws, buffleheads, eiders, scoters and the harlequin duck. Geese and swans are not sexed by this method.

Sexing Dabblers by Bill Markings: Most female dabbler or puddle ducks can be distinguished by dusky markings on their bill and by dark spots on the upper and lower mandibles, usually along the rear edge of the bill. All dabblers except the pintail, wood

(Continued on Page 34)

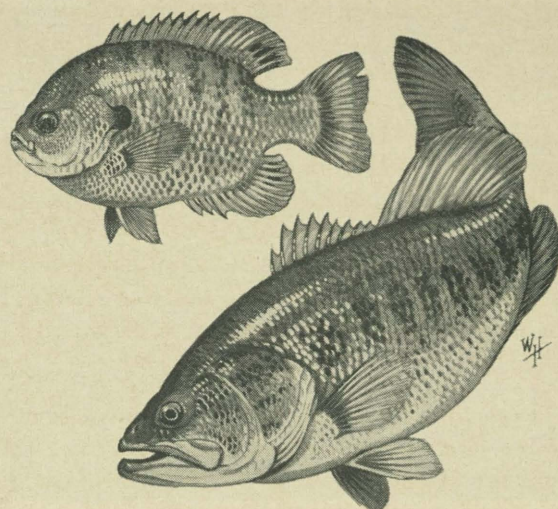


External Anatomy of A Duck Showing Various Methods For Age and Sex Determination

Fish Pond PRACTICES

By **WAYNE HOOK**

Information Extension Officer
Northeast Region



All information herein based on pond management principles advanced by the Fisheries Division, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

What Is A Fish Pond?

A fish pond is any small body of water—from one-half acre to thirty acres in size—that will support an indefinite amount of fish. When properly installed and managed, a fish pond can be a valuable asset to any landowner.

Why Have A Fish Pond

A fish pond on your property can provide fishing, swimming, boating and other recreational activities for your family and friends. It may serve as a land conservation measure and as a water storage area. It will provide food in the form of fish. A fish pond may be used to bring a cash income to the owner by leasing or renting fishing rights. Private fish ponds also serve to take fishing pressure off our public waters by creating additional fishing areas. Many owners of private ponds allow the public to fish by asking landowner permission. In some cases, a farmer's fish pond is eligible under the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank program. Since sport fishing is now big business in Florida, a fish pond is part of good business for any landowner.

Who Can Build A Fish Pond?

Any person who owns or leases property that has a suitable site for construction of a fish pond.

Are Ponds Hard to Build?

No, not if you get advice and carefully choose your pond site, and then follow good construction principles. For maximum usefulness, you should also be prepared to follow good management principles set forth by competent management experts.

Is Pond Site Important?

It sure is. Careful consideration should be given to selection of a site for your pond. The cost of construction and maintenance, and the usefulness and productivity of the pond depends upon its location.

Remember that a pond is a permanent structure, and it should be constructed properly. The best advice as to location and construction should be obtained and followed to the letter.

What Should A Site Have?

A good pond site should have adequate, but not too much, water supply. By choosing land with a suitable topography, the cost of construction will be kept down. The soil and the area should be surveyed and analyzed by pond-construction specialists. Then the site can be chosen.

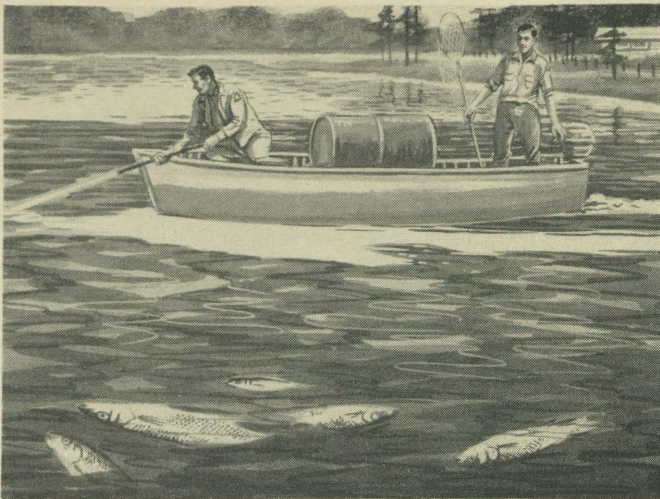
Do Pond Fish Need Flowing Water?

A pond site should not be located on land that is subject to flooding. It is not good to build a pond by damming a large stream or river. All water flowing out of a pond is waste water. Water levels in a good pond should not fluctuate with the weather or seasons, but should remain fairly constant month after month. Flowing water is not essential for pond fishes.

(Continued on Next Page)

When properly installed and managed, fish ponds can be valuable assets to landowners.





Before stocking farm ponds should be drained or chemically treated to remove all existing fish.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

What Size Of Pond Is Desired?

If you don't plan to furnish fishing for a large number of people, you need a pond no larger than two or three surface acres. You should expect a pond to produce about 200 pounds of fish per acre each year, if the pond is well fertilized and properly managed. Ponds under one-half acre will not afford any prolonged fishing. Ponds over five acres usually cost an individual too much to manage.

How Deep Should The Pond Be?

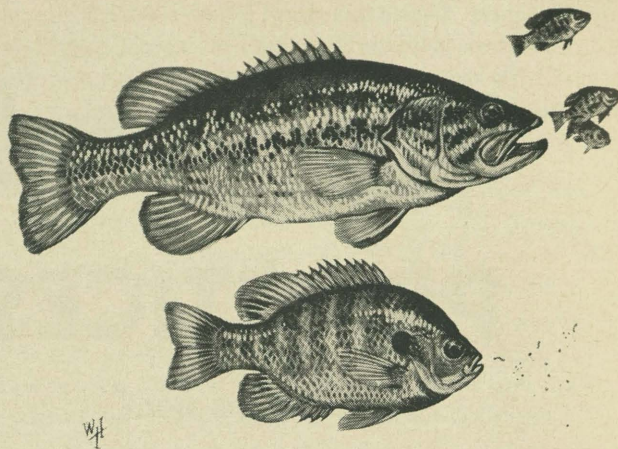
For highest fish production, the pond should have a maximum depth of 2 feet at shore line, with a gentle slope down to six or seven feet maximum in the middle. Ponds with a large part of the water area seven to 20 feet deep do not produce a correspondingly higher yield of fish. Very shallow ponds, with depths of less than five feet of water, soon become nothing more than weed ponds.

How Should A Pond Be Stocked?

If the pond is to provide good fishing and maximum fish production, it should be free of all fish before stocking. The fish should come from a state or government hatchery, and be stocked in correct numbers. All old ponds (holding water a year or more) and some new ponds should either be drained or chemically treated to kill all the existing fish before stocking. The most suitable fish for stocking in ponds are the largemouth black bass and the bluegill bream. These are the only species that the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission raises in hatcheries for such pond stocking purposes.

Why Stock With Bass And Bream?

Other combinations of fish have been tried, but none provided as good fishing or fish production as the bass and bluegill bream combination.



The most suitable fish for stocking are largemouth bass, top, and bluegill bream.

How Many Should Be Stocked?

The number stocked is based on the amount of surface water of the pond, and its fertility. The two species are stocked in fertilized ponds at the ratio of 1,000 bream to 100 bass per surface acre of water. In unfertilized ponds, the rate drops to 500 bream and 50 bass per surface acre. In Florida, with these stocking rates, the bass should weigh from 12 ounces to one pound, and blue gill from three to six ounces each at the end of twelve months after the bream were stocked.

When To Stock A Pond?

Because of the spawning habits of the fish, the bluegill are usually introduced into the pond in the fall. Bass are stocked the following spring.

The bluegill diet consists primarily of insects, and they can live in a pond without other fish. However, if allowed perfect freedom of the pond, the bluegills will soon become overpopulated and stunted for lack of food. Therefore, bass are placed in the pond to help control the bream.

The small bass at first live off insects, but after reaching a length of several inches they begin to eat the offspring of the bream that were stocked the previous fall.

Can A Pond Be Overstocked?

Yes, it can. One of the most popular misconceptions is the belief that placing vast numbers of fish in a pond will provide better fishing. This is the exact opposite from the truth. If too many fish are stocked, or the fish population becomes crowded, the food supply will be depleted in a short time, and the fish will not reach adequate size. Fishing success will then drop off.

When Should Fishing Begin?

After both species have spawned, which is about a year after the bass are stocked. The pond should then be fished regularly so as to remove surplus fish and allow other fish to grow.

Why Fertilize A Fish Pond?

Because the ability of the pond to produce fish is

directly related to the fertility of the water. Properly fertilized ponds will produce many more pounds of fish per acre than an unfertilized one. Fertilizer also controls underwater plants by shading them out.

How Does Fertilizer Do These Things?

The fertilizer is dissolved in the water, and the nutrients from the fertilizer cause a growth of microscopic plants. These plants provide food for tiny water animals and insect larvae. Bream and small bass feed on the insects and tiny animals. The microscopic plants are the only plants desirable in a fish pond, and the millions that are produced by the addition of fertilizer will color the water a dark green or brownish green, thus cutting out the sunlight necessary for the undesirable water plants and moss.

What Kinds And Amounts Used?

Commercial fertilizer is preferred; although organic types such as manures can be used, they have a tendency to support undesirable pond scums. The pond needs a certain amount of the nutrients, nitrogen, phosphate, and potash for best results. The formula which has proved the best is 8-8-4. That is, eight pounds of nitrogen, eight pounds of phosphate and four pounds of potash in 100 pounds of fertilizer. However, it may be necessary to buy another formula and adjust it. All major fertilizer companies can do this adjusting.

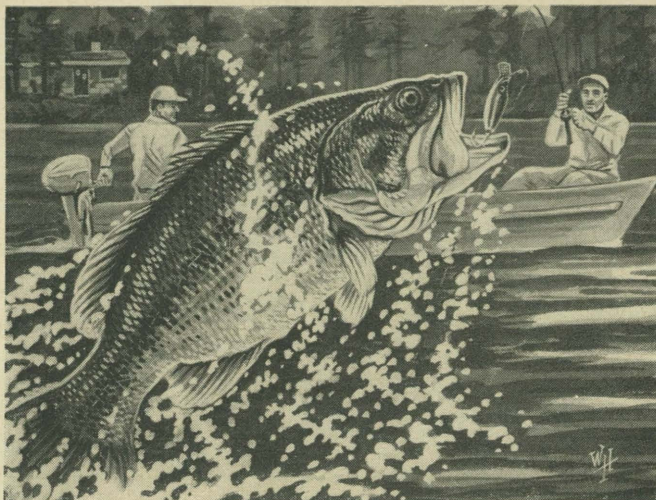
The standard application of fertilizer is 100 pounds of 8-8-4, or its equivalent, for each surface acre of water. Ponds that receive nutrients from fertilized pastures or groves certainly require less fertilizer than ponds that do not receive any nutrients.

When To Fertilize?

The first application of fertilizer should be made during the first warm weather of spring, or around mid-February to early March. Within a few days the

Properly fertilized ponds will produce many more pounds of fish per acre than an unfertilized one.

Drawings By Wallace Hughes



Fishing in renovated farm ponds should not begin until about one year after stocked with bass, and should then be fished regularly.

water will become green or brownish-green due to the growth of the microscopic plants mentioned above. If the water fails to change color, applications should continue for each week or ten days until the green or brown cast appears. Following applications should be made whenever the water begins to lose its green or brown color, or when it becomes clear enough for your hand or the pond bottom to be seen at a depth of 12 to 18 inches below the surface. This usually requires applications every three to five weeks, until cold weather in the fall.

How To Fertilize?

In small ponds, fertilizer can be broadcast from the bank or poured from a boat. Sacks of fertilizer can be placed on submerged platforms in larger ponds. Wind and wave action will distribute the fertilizer.

What Is The Cost Of Fertilizing?

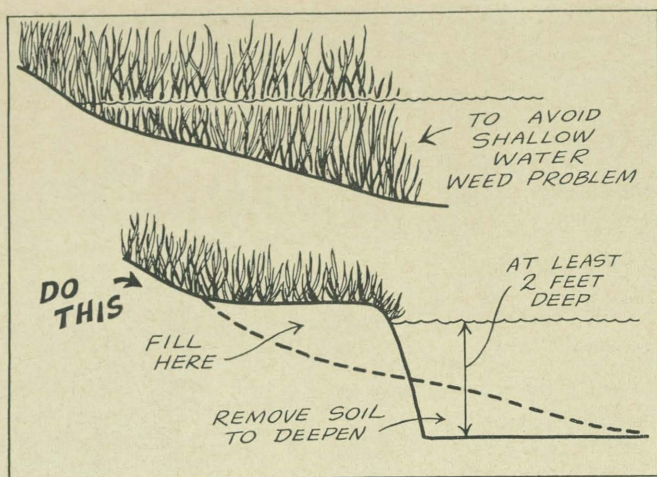
Ponds can be fertilized for about \$20.00 per acre each year. The cost of fertilizer is more than justified in increased recreation and food, since fishing is usually better in fertilized ponds and more pounds of fish per acre are produced than in sterile or unfertilized ponds.

Danger Of Not Following Directions

Weeds may get the upper hand and the fish population thrown out of ratio if the pond is not fertilized correctly with the right amount and at the right time. Too much fertilizer can be detrimental to the fish by indirectly removing too much oxygen from the water during the night or on cloudy days, and fish may then die from lack of oxygen.

Are All Waterweeds Undesirable?

Yes, they are because they interfere with fishing, they foster the breeding of mosquitoes, they hide little bluegills from the bass, thus causing overpopulation
(Continued on Next Page)



Edges of farm ponds should be deepened to avoid waterweed problems.

(Continued from Preceding Page)

and stunted fish, and they use up the pond's fertility.

What Are Undesirable Waterweeds?

All leafy water plants are considered weeds in a fish pond. Weeds are classified into three types:

1. Submerged weeds are those that grow chiefly below the water surface. They can usually be prevented by fertilization. If they are already established

in a pond, kill the weeds with chemicals and then fertilize the pond.

2. Emergent or marsh weeds are plants with leaves that float or stand above the water surface.

3. Floating type weeds are not rooted to the bottom, and float freely upon the water surface.

How Best To Control Waterweeds?

1. Eliminate shallow edges and marshy conditions. Deepen the edges of your pond to at least two feet.

2. Fertilize enough to shade the pond bottom.

3. Cut brush and trees from around the pond to assure unhampered wind action.

4. Mow around the pond edges when needed, or allow cattle to graze the area.

5. Keep organic matter out of the pond to prevent pond scum.

6. Use chemicals for spraying the weeds if they occur.

7. Check with major chemical companies for the type of chemical to use and how to apply it.

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service will assist you in selecting the site, and help in the construction of the pond. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, with offices listed on page-3 will assist in stocking new ponds, renovating old ponds, and suggesting methods for the best management of the ponds.

DRAKE OR HEN? (Continued from Page 30)

duck, baldpate and European Widgeon can be sexed by this method. Caution should be taken when examining immature dabblers. In some instances, the immature male bill will have the dusky markings of the female bill but will lack the dark spots. Mature males usually have a uniform color to their bill.

Sexing by the Trachea: In ducks, males can be separated from the females by the enlarged lower end of the trachea, or wind pipe, where the voice box is formed. In all ages, from the downy young to the mature bird, the enlarged swelling of the trachea indicates a male bird. In live birds, an experienced person can probe with finger into the depression formed by the clavicle and feel the voice box, determining if the bird is male or female. All ducks except shoveller, ruddy duck and the scoters can readily be sexed by the trachea method. This method does not apply to sexing geese or swans.

Additional Sexing and Aging Methods

Many additional ways of sexing and aging waterfowl exist. A few of these may be briefly noted. Measurements of body length and wing length as well as weights are used in sexing and aging ducks. Eye color, bill color, foot color and various plumage differences are also used in sexing and aging various species.

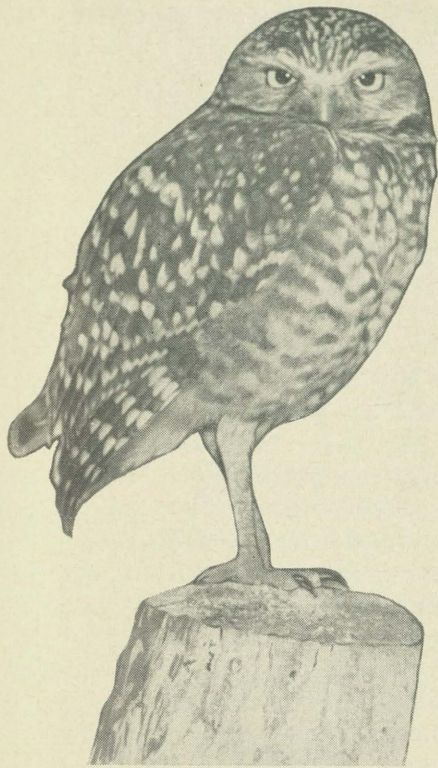
Sexing and Aging by Wings: Recently, waterfowl technicians of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have greatly improved on sexing and aging

techniques for ducks using only the duck's wing. In future years, hunters will be asked to send their duck wings to the Service thus yielding much valuable and previously unavailable information concerning the nation's waterfowl populations.

Black Duck Breast Feathers: Black ducks can be sexed and aged by means of certain breast feathers. Breast feathers of male black ducks have a distinct "U" shaped marking compared to the "V" shaped markings of the females. Either immature or mature black ducks can be distinguished using these breast feathers.

Wood Duck Wings: Female wood ducks can be separated from male wood ducks by certain feather markings on their wings. Most obvious distinction is the "tear" shaped light markings on the trailing edge of the secondary wing feathers of the female compared to a slight light line on the trailing edge of the male secondary wing feathers.

In considering the collection and use of such material as that pertaining to aging and sexing of waterfowl, it must be remembered that a considerable quantity is necessary to give valid results. Also, distribution of the sample is important, so that careful consideration of these factors must be given before any conclusions are reached. Within these limitations, information on the age and sex composition of the waterfowl population, as gathered by the techniques discussed here, are most important to proper management. ●



Whose "WHOOOO" In Miami?

By JOHN FIX

only caught the sign out of the corner of his eye. But that is enough. He stops abruptly. He frowns. Wh-what in the World. . . ? He purses his lips. He shakes his head as though to dispel an incredible dream. He turns and slowly retraces his steps. No, By Golly—or, Por Dios. . . as his nationality may be—he has not been mistaken. Miami International Airport IS a Wildlife Sanctuary. Dazed he blinks his way through the rest of the message:

"Burrowing owls found in the Southeastern United States have established a nesting colony in the grass fields between the runways. Because of danger from planes visitors are not permitted on these fields. However persons leaving by plane may watch for these 9-inch-tall owls. Their food includes mice, crayfish and crabs. They are no hazard to air traffic and are protected by airport personnel."

The words are repeated in Spanish for the edification of Miami's many Latin visitors. And the plaque bears the signature of the Dade County Port Authority which has jurisdiction over the Airport, and the Florida Audubon Society.

The Affair of the Owls began back in 1952 when the birds took up their residence shortly after the runways were constructed. They are believed to have emigrated from the Kissimmee Prairie Region in Central Florida where they are found in large numbers. But what brought them to Miami and especially what led them to adopt their present incongruous homesite is not clear. However soon after arriving they had burrowed into nests six feet

below the surface of the ground. Once established they emerged from time to time to perch on airstrip light standards and to stare unblinkingly at the World of Man. The passing of the huge planes and their attendant noises seemed to bother them not at all. But with the approach of a Human they would hop down from their perch and waddle with as much dignity as they could muster to the entrance of their burrow and disappear. When airport employees learned that the birds were in no danger from the planes—and vice versa—and that passengers were taking a delight in spotting the feathered creatures from aircraft windows, they petitioned the Port Authority and the Audubon Society to declare the environs of the airport a bird sanctuary. This was done although it now appears to have been an unnecessary precaution since the owls increased in number from the very beginning of their tenancy of the airstrip. Once in a while an owl will burrow too close to the concrete of a runway. An airport employee patiently fills in the burrow since if left it might cause an eventual dangerous erosion. Displaced Mr. Owl, grumbling under his breath, waddles away to burrow elsewhere in the vicinity, but always between the airstrips.

Thus far the only potential danger from the presence of the owls has been the always imminent possibility that a curious Human will wander out onto the runways in an effort to get a closer view of the cocky little fellows, or in an attempt to photograph them.

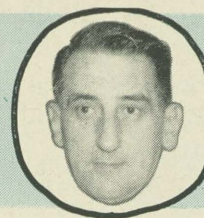
But their only Miami portraits to date have been those snapped at long range with telephoto lens. ●

THE VICINITY OF A modern airport would seem to be the last place any bird in his right senses would select for a homesite. And if he were joined by scores of his Kinfolk in the same lethal locale an epidemic of mass stupidity would appear to be indicated. And if—to cap the climax—every one of the obvious morons settled down to housekeeping in the grassy areas between jet landing strips . . . well, all we can do is shake our bewildered head and tell you their story. But we give you fair warning. The story will put a heavy strain on your credulity. For the bird in question is none other than the little fellow we have held in awe all our lives for his reputed high IQ; the Feathered Egghead—the Wise Old Owl!

It happened at Miami, Florida—at Miami's famed International Airport, one of the newest and busiest in the world. There visitors are curiously affected when they catch sight of a sign. The sign reads: "Miami International Airport. . . BURROWING OWL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY."

Often the visitor, baggage-laden, is scurrying from one point to another in the huge terminal and has

CAMPING AND COOKING



BY
LOU
MUSSLER

PICKING ANYTHING as *the* item from an entire market with today's new-fangled equipment, plus each person's finicky buying habits make the writer a prime target when he says, "*This is the thing—the best—the only—that is the thing, and my pick.*" Like being a judge in a beauty contest ——!!

Arguments about all-purpose camping items, especially tents, run the gamut. Generally, many *are* considered all-purpose. But camp gear, like automobiles, or houses, or beauty creams, is pretty much an individual matter. In fact, *two* matters when Mrs. Individual has her say.

Getting down to hard facts, however, my choice of the wall tent isn't based on snap-judgment. For utility, and we're sticking to this theme, the wall tent is no 'gadget' tent. There's no tricky inner framework to go wrong should it get twisted, misshapen, rusted or stuck as frequently happens. By its very shape you can exercise full space utilization. In my opinion it has the

least problems to erect, adjust, or set for tension strain.

True, my old-fashioned selection does have bothersome upright poles, plus a hefty ridge pole. Except for an outright break, tear or split, there's no hinges to lubricate, or to cuss back into shape if bent. A broken pole can be repaired anywhere, or substituted entirely. Repairs are easily improvised by using saplings, scrounged 2" x 4"s—even by splicing with wire coat hangers or fence wire. (Don't shoot, friend farmers!)

Transporting the long poles and bulky gear no longer present problems. With the light trailers and sectional poles, (even the lightweight aluminum type which in some measure have that corrosive-freeze habit) all gear can be carry or by towing.

The corrosive action of aluminum is a matter of preventative maintenance. On the other hand, it costs little to get the anodized type, or have your dealer coat your old set. While many campers use this alumi-

num lubricant, I have found during frequent pitching, striking and handling the jointed poles sort of messy. It's sometimes difficult to keep clean in the field, and trying to remove the lubricant stain isn't easy.

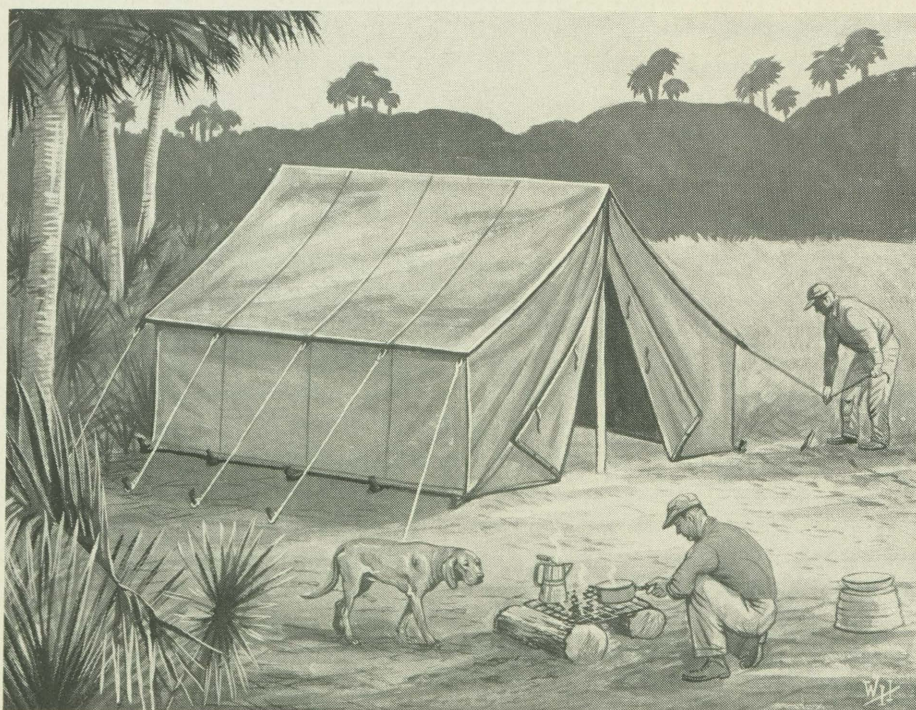
The larger wall tents, especially with the extra fly is tougher to erect. But since we're talking in terms of a family outfit, there's no lack of man or woman power that I can see.

Generally, canvas repairs to the wall tent are less. They have straight sections, need no fancy sewing, and whatever fittings to replace are less expensive. Naturally, the wall tents with built-in screens, openings, or those with the sewn-in porch enclosures do require some extra work if torn. We cannot argue down the "extras"—like the accessories on your car—they have a higher *first* cost, require extra attention when packing and transporting, and add to your repair bill.

My wall tent doesn't include these—hence I have no wear or tear of "extras." Moreover, try measuring these price-wise as *built-in* accessories as opposed to separate "extras." You'll find it quite a difference.

Let's consider "conveniences," or the added features some of the newer jobs offer. Here again the wall tent runs to simplicity. By using an auxiliary fly, or several of them, we get added weather protection—sun and rain, and a front porch, dining room, kitchen, extra sleeping space, even a bath—if you separate the "bath" intent. The latter refers to using the extra fly as a screen for bathing privacy close by, next to the sleeping quarters in fact. It doesn't mean having the latrine *that* close.

No tent is ideal, and the wall tent has many shortcomings, but it is my choice for best all-round camping cover.



But we must consider this close-in screen for other reasons. It affords a measure of privacy for sanitary discomforts during inclement weather. I'd hardly recommend this for anything but emergencies. On the other hand, family problems making it impractical for certain members to walk very far, especially on a dark night. Do not ridicule this fact. I have friends, near invalids, who spend many wonderful weeks camping in the outdoors. Not helpless, but I'd hate to think of them making the long walk over unfamiliar ground on a dark night.

The portable sanitary commodes contain odorless, chemically treated disposable bags. They are easily handled, and almost eliminate pointed objections to this chore.

For insect control a wall tent may be screened by using regular fabric mesh netting. Your dealer will recommend size mesh. On this note, the tiny sand fly (Southern variety) may be controlled by using pre-treated netting, or your dealer will recommend the handy spray bomb. Check for the type which contain chemicals used in mite and chigger control.

Some type screening comes with a snap-on zipper frame. I'm not opposed to zippers for this purpose, but I don't favor them. Nor do I believe the type which are permanently sewn on add anything but another maintenance problem.

Manufacturers and outlets make a point of the sewn-in floor. Well and good. But I recall a time when I used one of these built-in jobs on rocky ground. I had little choice of campsite, and attempts to smooth the rocky ground were impossible. The sparse vegetation provided little matting for padding. After two days of occupancy the floor looked like two shotgun blasts of #9 shot. True, a ground sheet would stand up no better. And, you argue, you're not going to camp on such terrain. Maybe not, but what happens if you do? I can replace or repair sectionally the groundsheet—a lot cheaper than sewn-in floors I have found.

The notion of snakes and other intruders talks up the sewn-in floors. Heck, by using a sod cloth and wrapping in the groundsheet a worm couldn't get in, much less a snake.

Objection to a wall tent's lack of space, slanting walls, no "elbow room" and them "poles always in the way" doesn't hold valid in my book. Usually the complaints stem from people who carry too much useless junk anyway. If you cannot move about, it isn't the tent's fault. You got too much junk. Or haven't properly stored it. Then, have you considered you just might have an undersized tent for your purpose?

You cannot stand upright. I'm 6'4", and guess I've spent as much time in a tent as the average camper—maybe a lot more, it doesn't bother me.

We find many additional objections—mostly by those with ideas akin to suburbia-in-the-woods. I can only suggest they overlook "rough" camping in a tent and buy a fancy trailer. Then we can hope they'll park far enough away so we can't hear their complaints about their trailer.

No tent is ideal—and certainly the wall tent has many shortcomings. I've purposely omitted pointed criticism on other tents. No matter which type *you* personally prefer, I stated reasons for taking sides with the wall tent, and think it is the most practical of all—not out of prejudice or dislike for other types.

I believe the 9' x 12' type simplest to transport, erect, use, modify, maintain, and store. This is the ideal size tent for two. A 12' x 14' is nice for four. I do not believe more than four *adults* should sleep under one tent roof. In fact, if camping involves more than four adults, already you got a neighborhood brawl in the making. These are my personal reasons, you may do as you please. I spoke my piece, and am open to all clobbering.

NEXT MONTH
THE INDIVIDUALS
BEST SHELTER BET

HIGH ON THE HOG

(Continued from Page 27)

ground, his mouth partially open and spewing froth from around two enormous tusches. Obviously, the dogs held great respect for his size and ferocity, for they attacked with utmost caution, jumping back quickly whenever those long, curved tusches gnashed close. One or two weren't quick enough and were tossed out of the palmettoes like bean bags, torn and bleeding.

We tried unsuccessfully to make the boar break for cover, but it was no go. Unless we did, "Junior" and Miss Dessie couldn't use the rope effectively. I wanted pictures and tried for a close-up, but Miss Dessie's stern warning stopped me cold.

"He won't stand much more pushing, Mac. We'll probably have to shoot this one."

But as Charley and Herb moved in cautiously with ready guns, I also moved in between them and directly on the narrow path in line with the hog, but slightly behind Charley and Herb. When I could see the brute's ugly head, I started snapping pictures—with hopes. Somewhere about the third or fourth exposure, it happened.

Without warning, the short-tempered boar broke from the brush. I saw him momentarily through my camera's viewfinder, then I was knocked to one side of the trail.

At almost the same instant, Charley's shotgun roared—then roared again. I looked up—shaken but unhurt—to see Charley cautiously kicking the fallen hog for remaining signs of life. There weren't any.

"I thought for a second we had lost us a photographer," Miss Dessie commented dryly. "Did you get your pictures?"

"I don't know," I honestly admitted. "Everything happened so fast!" . . .

The sow that we brought in alive was penned, but the boar was dressed out for the barbecue pit. Tonight—and for several to follow—we will eat high on the hog. ●

DOG CHATTER



BY
GEORGE
CROWLEY

IF YOUR FAMILY GOT a new dog for Christmas you are right now going through a period of adjustment. And by the end of February there is a good chance your pet will end up in the shelter of your humane association unless you are approaching the situation in the right way.

Of course, if you have had dogs before, the adjustment period is much easier. But even so there will be things about this dog that will be different from your previous pets, just as every child is different from even his brothers and sisters.

Here are a few basic things to remember that will make things a little bit easier.

First, be sure that your dog has a place in the house which he can call his own and where he can be sent to keep out of the way. A good idea is to have it equipped with a short chain so that he can be tied up until he has learned to stay there on command.

Second, don't start pampering him in his feeding. Feed a good commercial dog food that you know contains everything he needs for perfect health, and if he doesn't eat it just throw it away and give him another helping at the next meal.

Third, teach him to come, go, sit and lie down as quickly as possible so that he will be manageable.

Fourth, never pet him when all four feet are not on the floor or you may spend the rest of his life trying to keep him from jumping up on you or your guests.

Fifth, get a good dog book and follow the directions when in doubt. If you don't want to invest in a full size book write to Pard Department, Swift & Company, Chicago 9, Ill., and ask them for their free pamphlets which are also distributed by many veterinarians.

* * *

In Anchorage, Alaska, Jory, the Schnauzer pet of Capt. and Mrs.

Edwin Sweeney had the city in a turmoil after he escaped from airline attendants. The dog, who hates cages and distrusts strangers, was being shipped from the States to join his owners in Tokyo where Capt. Sweeney had been transferred to a fighter base. While being aired he escaped and no one could get near enough the distraught animal to capture him.

Finally it was necessary to fly Mrs. Sweeney from Tokyo to Anchorage to carry on the search. A telephone call sent her hurrying to a vacant block, isolated by a cordon of police to keep strangers away from the frightened animal. When Mrs. Sweeney was 100 yards away Jory recognized her and dashed into her arms.

Rescued Dogs

There are no statistics to show how long a dog can survive without food or water—and it would certainly depend to a considerable extent on the condition of the dog and the circumstances. However, papers in various parts of the country have often carried stories of rescues that will certainly give encouragement to anyone who loses a dog.

In Seattle, Wash., a great mound of rain-loosened dirt smashed into the home of Jim Sneddon. The family barely escaped but their dog, a

wire haired terrier, was buried beneath the debris. Mr. Snedden returned to his home the moment he was released from the hospital the following day, calling and listening for some indication that the dog might be alive. Getting no response they gave up hope until, four days later, he received a call from a sightseer who said she had heard a dog barking under the ruins.

With the help of four friends Mr. Sneddon started digging and three hours later out came a gaunt, but uninjured, little dog.

In Dover, Ohio, a coon hound belonging to Kenneth Welch disappeared on the same day that Paul Miller visited him. Ten days later Miller opened the trunk to his car and found the dog weak but still alive. He had used the car daily during the entire time, even making a trip to the Welch farm, but had not heard a bark or whimper.

In Ashland, Ky., Lassie is back home apparently none the worse after a 5 week stay at the bottom of a dry cistern 30 feet deep. The dog, a shepherd type pet of two children, disappeared suddenly and was not seen again until a worker saw the gleam of eyes in a deep cistern under a house next door. The dog was emaciated but recovered quickly.

In Pasadena, Calif., a cocker spaniel spoiled a dramatic attempt to rescue him from a mountain ledge by rescuing himself. George, the pet of the Bernard Helfand family, fell off a mountain trail while on a family hike and wound up on a little ledge halfway down a 225-foot canyon wall. He spent the night there seemingly trapped. Next day, as a rescuer was being lowered by ropes down the steep slope, George suddenly appeared at the top, having found his own way out of his difficulties. ●



"And that's my wife. I bagged her in Duval County."

CLUB NEWS

(Continued from Page 10)

Again, the committee members may become interested in conservation, may join the club and will certainly be appreciative of the problems.

Its services can be available to all other committees of the club through its chairman.

Fishing Contests have long been a source of publicity, new membership and sometimes funds for sportsmen's clubs. The juvenile variety has been widely touted as a means of introducing youngsters to fishing and hunting.

The value of any sort of competition for the biggest, most or first in fish and game is being questioned widely by conservationists and the Washington State Department of Game recently conducted a nationwide survey of opinion to learn just what the various state conservation agencies thought about contests. When the returns were in, the vote was predominantly against such competition and most of those answering indicated fishing contests for children probably did more harm than good to the youngster's attitude toward sportsmanship.

In many states, the one-day "fish derbies" have become so firmly entrenched as institutions that it is difficult to stop them and most conservation agencies feel they must "go along." In some states, there are laws restricting the use of public fish and game in competition.

Persons queried about fishing contests in Florida (where there certainly are plenty of them) have displayed widely divergent opinions but most of them have stressed the promotional value of fishing for prizes. A given resort area can secure a lot of publicity and considerable immediate business by giving prizes for big fish.

Most of the Florida people asked about the contests feel that they may be good promotion and have not discussed the conservation as-

pects at all, apparently not having considered them.

It is accepted by sports fishermen that records should be kept so that extra large specimens of fish or game will not be eaten or released until they are measured and weighed.

It is when prizes of great monetary value are involved that the fish or game population is likely to suffer and dishonest practices are apt to become common. The existence of prizes for large fish—or big deer—is not considered harmful by most conservationists providing it is incidental to the hunting or fishing. It is when the contestants descend on a given area for the avowed purpose of winning prizes that trouble starts and some experienced promoters believe a surprising percentage of the winners have not been captured according to the rules.

Strangely, it seems that large entry fees and expensive trips are apt to attract contestants who are more likely to follow rules. A sailfishing tournament or a tuna tournament is so expensive that it attracts serious big-game anglers who certainly don't expect to show a profit and much prefer trophies to dollars. Few conservationists quarrel with such events.

The "big bass contests" probably do no harm to fish populations. Most of those entering such competition do so incidentally and would go fishing anyway.

Tagged fish released in given areas with prizes for return of the tags undoubtedly increase fishing

interest but seem to give no opportunity for unfair practices and have no effect on sportsmanship, being pure promotions for the areas where they are held.

The type of contest that gets a jaundiced look from the conservation agencies is the one where a bunch of fish are released in a small area and youngsters fish for the biggest—or the most. This, most conservationists believe, is a poor start for a sportsman. They feel that youngsters should be instructed in fishing skills rather than told to beat their friends at catching fish.

Paid Hunting and Clubs

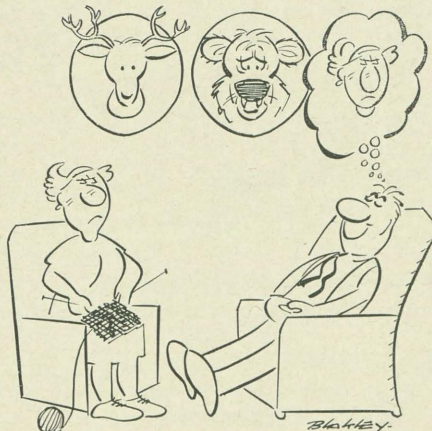
Many hunting and fishing clubs are involved in a variety of attempts at opening "closed" territory. Some of them have bought or leased areas; others have endeavored to accomplish their purpose by public relations work with land owners. Most realize that paid hunting is on the way — and already here in many areas.

The West Tennessee Sportsman's Association has set up a fee system, whereby its members pay farmers a fee of \$2 to \$3 to hunt and the Association insures farmers against damage up to \$100 caused by their members. So far, there have been no claims.

Sighting In

During the past hunting season, numerous gun clubs have opened their ranges to non-members for "sighting in" as part of a national program sponsored by the National Rifle Association. With experienced shooters on hand to aid them, many beginning hunters have gotten off to a good start.

However, opening range indiscriminately to the public the year around without supervision has proved disastrous in most cases. The "public" wrecks any buildings present, shoots down target holders and persists in dismantling bench rests, no matter how well they may be constructed. A rifle range seems to be prime target for vandalism—and most of the vandals have .22 rifles. ●



GAME NOTES

(Continued from Page 4)

Florida and the other southeastern states. This project, which has its headquarters at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, has already made major accomplishments in the field of wildlife diseases. Analysis of the blood and liver samples gives information on the presence and distribution of parasites, disease, and abnormal blood conditions. From such knowledge comes an understanding of deer populations and proper evaluation of animals for use in stocking programs. Collection and proper identification of ticks is especially important this year because of the finding of fever ticks in some cattle herds. So far, no fever ticks have been found on deer.

Management Areas

Several changes were made in the management area system this year. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because of the small harvest last year and the probable low goose population this year, asked that the St. Marks area not be open to hunting. Therefore, this portion of the National Wildlife Refuge previously open to hunting under a cooperative agreement was closed. Likewise, the Commission is not operating the Holopaw and Big Cypress Wildlife Management Areas this year. The Holopaw Area changed ownership after the last hunting season, and the new owners chose to lease hunting rights to private individuals rather than to renew the lease agreement with the Commission. The reason, of course, is simple. The Commission can afford to pay only two cents per acre per year whereas leases to private groups yield 10 to 15 times as much. A lease with the Commission gives the landowner many additional benefits, but as taxes increase the greater income is mighty tempting. Approximately the same situation exists in regard to the Big Cypress Area.

On the brighter side, one area not open last year was added to the

public hunting system. This is the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. Johns County which is open for waterfowl hunting from 3 December through 8 January. Hunting will be permitted on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays (except Christmas and New Year's Day) from one half hour before sunrise to noon. No more than 100 hunters per day are permitted. No more than three permits will be issued to any one person during the season. These special permits are issued at no cost, but must be obtained in addition to a public hunt area permit, regular license and duck stamp.

Six mourning doves recently trapped at West Palm Beach and sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Center were confirmed through laboratory and pathological procedures to have Pox. Pox, a viral disease attacking several species of birds, is transmitted by mosquitoes and gnats. This disease is similar to Trichomoniasis, which also occurs in mourning doves. These diseases kill doves every year in Florida.

Pox is recognized by warts or nodules about the eyes, base of the

bill and upon the top of the head. Also, lesions form of a yellowish cheesy mass that is similar in Trichomoniasis. The diseases have not reached high epidemic outbreaks in Florida in the past ten years, but small numbers found dead at backyard feeders have been reported in various areas of Florida.

Wildlife biologists recommend the use of Enheptin, a drug that can be obtained at poultry feed stores, for control of these dreaded diseases. At the West Palm Beach trapping and banding station, Enheptin is sprinkled over the scratch feed bait and has controlled these diseases. Occurrences of these diseases at backyard feeders can easily be controlled with the use of Enheptin.

Collection of a limited sample of gray squirrels to be used in studies of reproduction rates and population composition has just been completed. This is the second phase of this investigation and results will be available within the next several weeks. Initial work was done during the last half of January and first half of February just past. At that time 10% of the females were either pregnant or lactating. Comparison of this with information obtained from the late summer collection will permit improved hunting regulations.

Recent completion of a five year study of the Everglades bullfrog by Frank Ligas (Federal Aid Project W-39-R) has resulted in probably the most comprehensive and complete report of this important species ever made. Mr. Ligas presented a paper on this subject at the annual October meeting of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners.

The annual fall quail census on the Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area in Charlotte County indicated the lowest bird population since 1947. The count revealed 1.34 quail per linear mile of census route as compared with 9.51 quail in 1958. Heavy rains and the fall hurricanes cut the population to this extent. ●

NEXT MONTH Two Speed Spinning Writer's Holiday Along The Edge



"Twelve gauge."

WHAT ABOUT SHOOTING PRESERVES

(Continued from Page 15)

commercial preserve charges in Florida are not yet that low but there will certainly be some to operate in the future with an eye on the lower income groups.

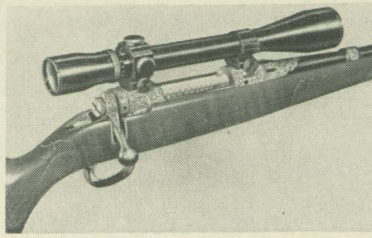
Perhaps in the long run the greatest contribution of shooting preserves to the general hunting picture will be their developments in producing pen-raised birds and managing them in the field. Certainly there will be a trend in small groups of sportsmen getting together for inexpensive in-season stocking of birds. Instead of having to do their own expensive experimenting, they will be able to use the techniques developed by commercial preserves. By 1970 there will undoubtedly be many farmers who will stock game on limited acreage during the state-wide season only at reasonable rates to small groups of local sportsmen.

As mentioned before, preserves are only a *partial* answer and approach to providing hunting for the future. They are no substitute for wildlife management areas, public lands, managing military and timber lands for the public, farmer-sportsmen relations and other programs.

Shooting preserves are comparable to trout states. Where the streams don't have heavy fishing pressure, they don't stock trout. On streams where fishing is heavy trout are added just before and during the fishing season. A lot of fishermen would rather catch a hatchery trout than no trout at all. The native trout is preferable—if he's available.

Concerning the future of hunting in America, I always liked the statement one game technician made: "I believe that any nation smart enough to produce a hydrogen bomb can always have hunting and fishing. It just depends on how much the sportsmen want it." ●

FIELD TESTS AND TELLS



For certain classes of rifle shooters, especially informal target shooters and varmint hunters, a variable power scope sight that will give increased magnification when needed, is preferred sighting equipment.

New this hunting season is the Weaver Model V8 variable power scope sight, giving quick choice of from 2½X to 8 power magnification.

What makes the new Weaver scope different from rival products already available is that the windage and elevation adjustments are made in the scope's rear mount ring instead of internally. The front mount ring is designed with a rugged recoil lug and V aligning surfaces that incorporate a universal action, permitting precise angular movement of the scope tube in response to micrometer click adjustments made in the rear mount ring. The new scope is currently being sold only with the adjustable mount attached to the scope tube, ready for installation on your rifle.

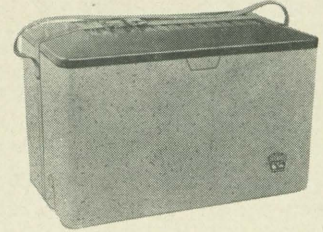
The V8 Weaver is also the first variable power scope with an unobstructed scope tube—no turret, no power change ring, no joints! Such designing eliminates any interference in positioning the scope tube in the mount rings for proper eye relief.

Standard aiming reticule furnished is the conventional crosshair type. However, for \$5.25 added to the scope's \$79.50 list price, the purchaser can have an instrument fitted with Weaver's new multi-range reticule. This special sighting reticule incorporates a combination of both heavy and fine crosshairs, with the heavier crosshairs forming a square aiming aperture in the reticule's center. The heavier outer crosshairs enable the shooter's eye to pick up the reticule quickly and the square center helps to bring the eye to center focus. The fine crosshairs used in combination cover only one-quarter of an inch at 100 yards, thus eliminating any "blot out" of even the smallest of targets. The optics of the Model V8 are nitrogen-filled and sealed to prevent fogging.

The mount of the new scope is designed to be attached to a rifle by using the standard Weaver, detachable top mount bases. The new scope can be fitted to more than 150 different model rifles.

FWFT&T has known Bill Weaver a long time. It is sufficient to say that he revolutionized scope sight manufacture when he

brought out the original Weaver scopes many years ago, and has never stopped trying to improve the designing and quality of his products. He makes good scope sights, knows it and stands behind the quality and performance of his line, to customer satisfaction. To FWFT&T's way of thinking, that merits attention and respect.



Although styling and color may have pronounced effect on sales, in certain classes of sporting goods items it is performance alone that counts most. This is especially true of ice chests.

Some models on the market perform brilliantly; others, despite their rugged construction and eye-appeal, just don't measure up—or fail just short of desired peak performance. Some of the most expensive ice chest have been most disappointing performers, for FWFT&T and other users.

Not so the plastic foam Thermos Chillybin ice chest! FWFT&T has found that the product does its expected job—and well. On a recent extended camping trip four different makes of ice chests were carried by party members; the Chillybin outperformed them all, by keeping a block of ice unmelted long after ice in other chests had melted.

As already stated, the basic material of the Chillybin is plastic foam—millions of plastic bubbles fused into a solid unit. There are no chest seams to rust or give away under strain, yet the chest itself is virtually indestructible. You can stand on it, kick it around and pile all sorts of camping gear on it without fear of it wearing out.

Although its overall dimensions are 12x21x13½ inches, and its inside open area will accept up to forty pounds of ice, the Chillybin is surprisingly light in net weight—only six pounds! A convenient carrying strap slips over your shoulder, leaving your hands free to carry other camping or picnic items.

Another feature FWFT&T likes is the way in which the Chillybin can be cleaned after use. You merely rinse it out under a faucet or with a hose. The material doesn't absorb moisture or odors, therefore is ideal for transporting iced fish catches.

At its price of \$13.95, readers troubled with food and ice packing problems afield will find it well worthwhile to experiment with a Chillybin.

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 7)

Barrels are, as a rule, at least 30 inches long, to lengthen the sighting plane and make for more accurate pointing, while making muzzle blast less noticeable. Many also have ventilated ribs, to better dissipate heat waves created by continuous firing.

No muzzle attached choke control or recoil compensator devices are allowed on the guns of competitors, because of the objectionable noise they tend to develop.

Many competitors handload their own ammunition; to be accurate, better than 50 per cent do. Others buy factory loaded shells of the brand of their choice from stocks of

sponsoring clubs. For the convenience of competitors, each club maintains a stock of various brands of shotgun shells in shooter's choice of shot sizes 7 and 8, and powder loadings of 2¾ and 3 drams. . . .

Besides previously mentioned Luke Sadler, current officers of the Florida State Trapshooting Association are: W. R. Gause, St. Petersburg, president; Peter Ashlock, Orlando, vice-president, and Carl Mayhue, Fort Lauderdale, participating delegate from the American Trapshooting Association.

The Florida organizations only revenue is a percentage of the profits earned by conducting and supervising the shoots. Consequently, much of the time and effort required to successfully stage the shoots is vol-

unteer, solely for love of competitive shooting. . . .

Managing an active gun club isn't an easy job, even for someone who has plenty of time to devote to the many details. Neither is it a job for an untrained, inexperienced person. It takes years of apprenticeship to gain the knowledge needed for good club management. Significantly, all the local managers of clubs operating under the Florida Trapshooting Association's banner have had long training and experience, one reason why the shoots run smoothly and safely. . . .

Don't fail to attend the one nearest you, whether you are a shotgunner, interested spectator or sports' writer. ●

STATEWIDE TAG FISH CONTEST ANNOUNCED

STARTING JANUARY 1, 1961, (and for the following six months) Florida fishermen may very well find themselves packing in a spare bank deposit slip or so with the rest of their fishing tackle.

After all, it isn't every day that somebody puts on a \$500,000 fishing contest!

But that's just about the size of it, and according to the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company 12,004 tagged fresh and salt water fish — each worth a prize — will be released.

Four "contest zones" have been set up within the state. Each released fish will be tagged. Each tag will be numbered. Four released fish will carry \$10,000 tags — one in each zone; 100 fish will have \$1,000 tags; 400 fish will be worth \$100 each; 1,300 fish will carry \$50 awards, and the remaining 10,200 fish each will be worth \$25.

In addition, the first tagged fish caught and turned in after the contest opens in each of the four zones will be worth a \$1,000 bonus, according to Schlitz Executive Vice President Robert A. Uihlein, Jr.

The Florida Schlitz \$500,000 Fishing Contest is combined with a research project in cooperation with the Florida State Board of Conserva-

tion and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Information as to type of fish, poundage, and other pertinent data on the tagged fish will be utilized for research purposes by the two state agencies.

Bass, crappie, bream, saltwater trout, redfish, saltwater catfish, drum, flounder, snapper, snook, barracuda, and mullet are among the types to be tagged and released.

Contest leads off in the first zone January 1: counties are Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Collier.

Zone one contest ends March 31, 1961 — but Zone two contest will have commenced February 1, Zone three March 1, etc.

Following the close of the contest in each zone, Schlitz will pay \$3 for every one of the tagged fish caught up until December 31, 1961.

Competition will be open to everyone, except employees of the Florida State Board of Conservation and the state Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, employees of Schlitz, its wholesalers and advertising agencies. All Florida fishing regulations must be complied with, Uihlein said. ●

ALLIGATOR DEALERS AND BUYERS CAUTIONED

DEALERS AND BUYERS of furs or alligator hides are cautioned that they must follow the provisions of the state laws requiring reports of the number, kinds and source of all hides bought or handled.

In addition, no common carrier may knowingly ship, transport or receive any hides or furs unless such shipments are marked with the name of the shipper and the number of his license.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has furnished special report forms to all licensed dealers and buyers of furs and alligator hides.

Florida Statutes, Section 372.66, requires dealers and buyers to forward reports to the Commission every two weeks.

Violators may be fined up to \$300.00, or imprisoned up to 90 days, for the first offense, and up to \$500.00 or six months for any subsequent violations.

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is required to enforce the law. Failure of any dealer or buyer to file the required reports will make such persons subject to prosecution. ●

F
L
O
R
I
D
A

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL
WHO IS THE
SAFEST HUNTER
OF ALL?

YOU CAN BE!

WHO
ME?

YES
YOU!

HUNT
SAFELY

—AND BE SURE
YOUR HUNTING
BUDDIES DO!

AIM THIS
ONLY
AT GAME

—AND
MAKE SURE
ITS GAME
BEFORE
YOU SHOOT!

UNLOAD IT

- IN YOUR CAR
- AT CAMP • AT HOME

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

THIS SHELL HAS
BEEN FIRED!

— DID IT DO ITS
JOB OF BAGGING
A DEER, A TURKEY
OR A QUAIL?

OR DID IT
WOUND OR MAYBE
KILL A FELLOW
HUNTER?

HANDLE
ALL GUNS
WITH
CARE

LOOK
CAREFULLY
BEFORE
SHOOTING

HUNT
SAFELY

FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

W
I
L
D
L
I
F
E

S
C
R
A
P
B
O
O
K



Florida Quail Hunting

Commission Photo By Jim Floyd

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO ***Florida Wildlife***

The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of
Hunting and Fishing
for only \$2.00

TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, \$3.75

THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, \$5.25



FLORIDA WILDLIFE
Tallahassee, Florida

Enter or extend my subscription for _____ year(s)
for FLORIDA WILDLIFE.

☐ Check; ☐ Cash; ☐ Money Order herewith.

Mailing Address:

Name _____

Street No. _____

City _____ State _____

Signed _____